





NANO*HIGH LECTURE SERIES
Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, April 24, 2004



Micromachines

Robert O. Ritchie

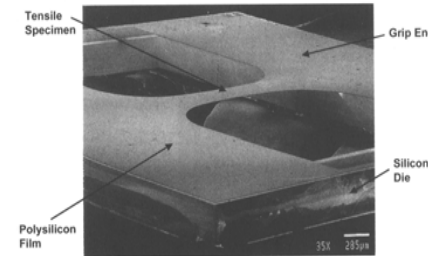
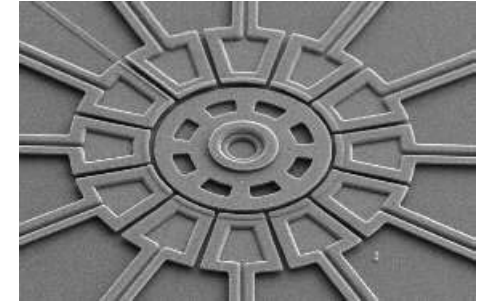
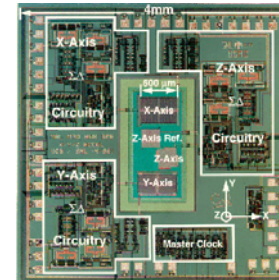
*Materials Sciences Division, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory,
and Professor of Materials Science and Engineering
University of California, Berkeley*

with particular thanks to

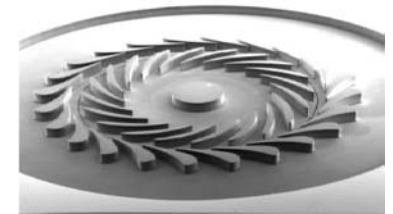
D. H. Alsem, C. L. Muhlstein (*Penn State*) and **E. A. Stach** (*NCEM*)

Outline

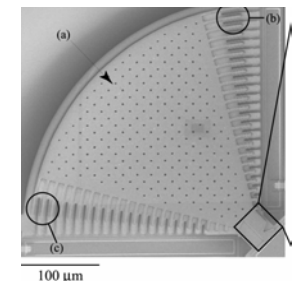
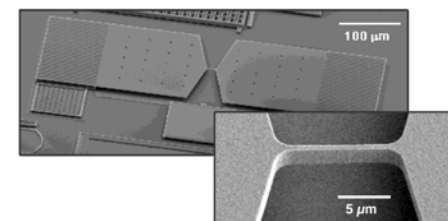
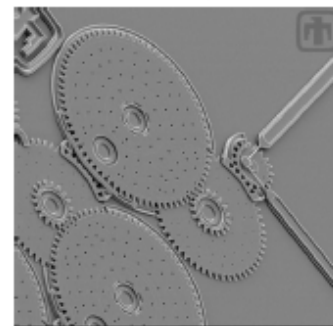
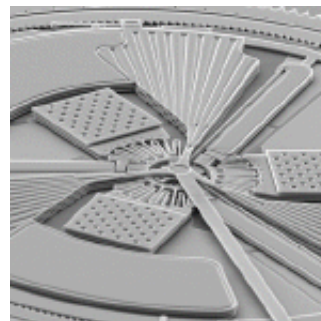
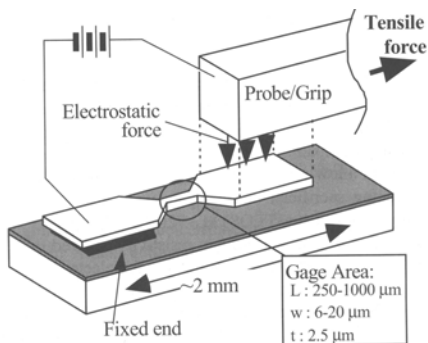
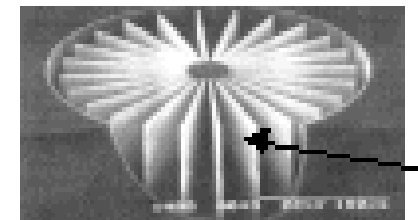
- What are micromachines (MEMS)?
- How are they made?
- What are they used for?
- How we use MEMS in research
- To find out how things break!
- The future – nanomachines!



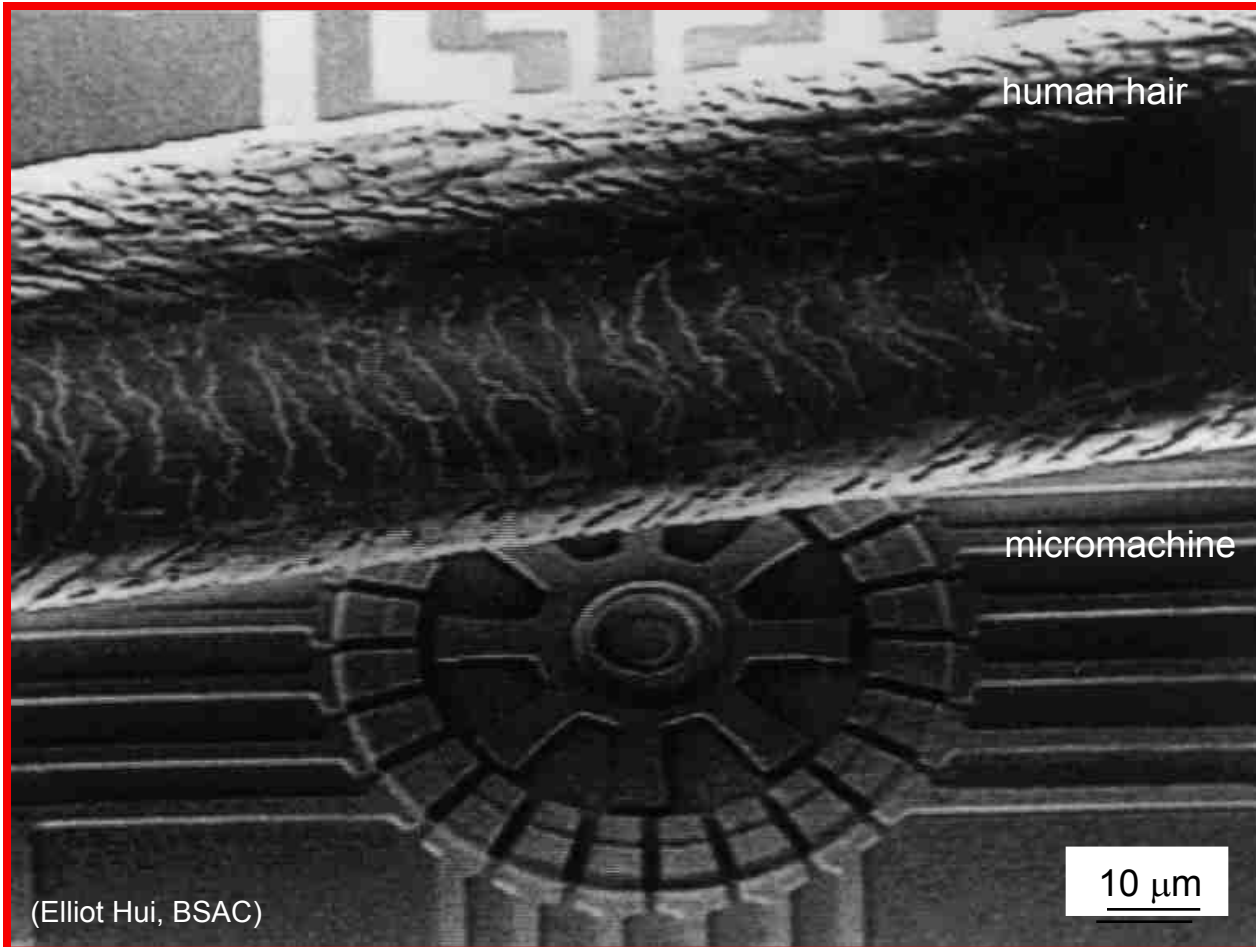
Schmidt, et al. (MIT)



2 mm



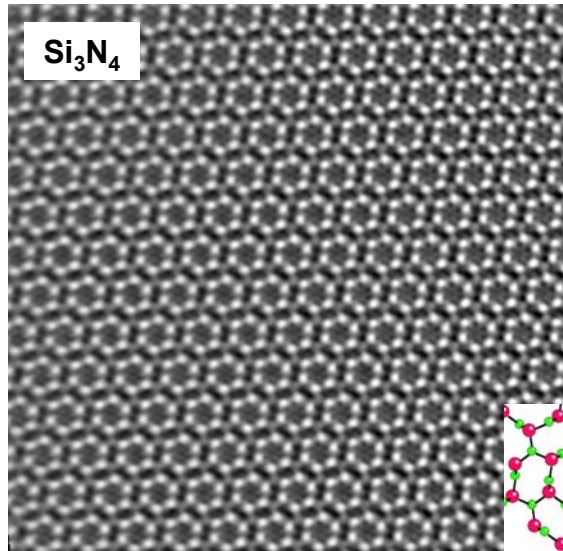
Exactly How Small is Small Here?



- The dimensions of current micro-machines (MEMS) are on the order of micrometers (microns – μm), i.e., millionths of a meter
- next generation machines (NEMS) may be on the order of tens to hundreds of nanometers (nm), i.e., nearly a trillionth of a meter!

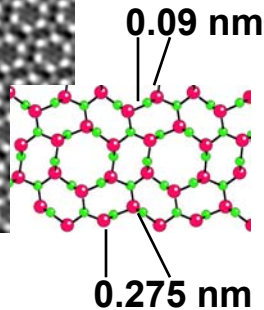
- a silicon MEMS micromotor next to a strand of human hair
- the diameter of the hair is about 50 μm (50,000 nm!)

Length Scales in Material Behavior

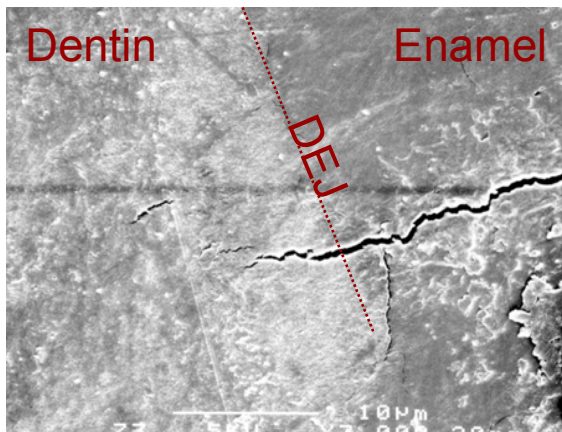


Atomic structure

sub-nanometer
($<10^{-10}$ m)



ceramic crystal 0.1 nm

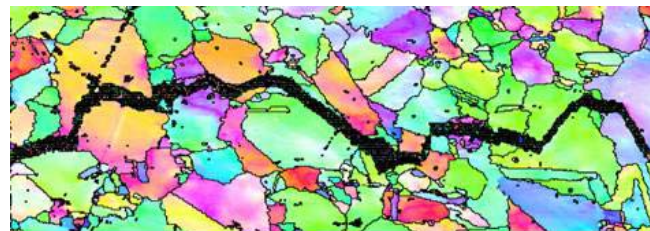


crack in a human tooth 1 μm



Microstructures

micrometers
($\sim 10^{-3}$ m)



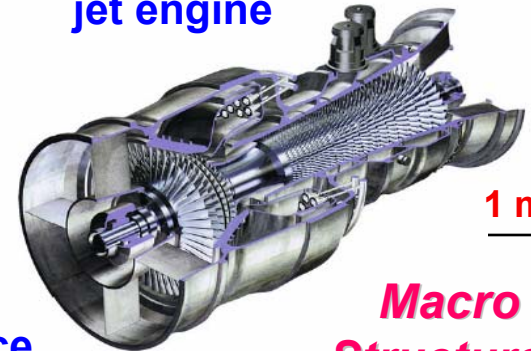
crack in a Ni alloy blade 10 μm

prosthetic device

10 mm



jet engine



1 m

Macro Structures

cm to m
(10^{-2} to 1 m)



micromachines 10 μm

Why Miniaturization?

- **Why miniaturization of machines?**

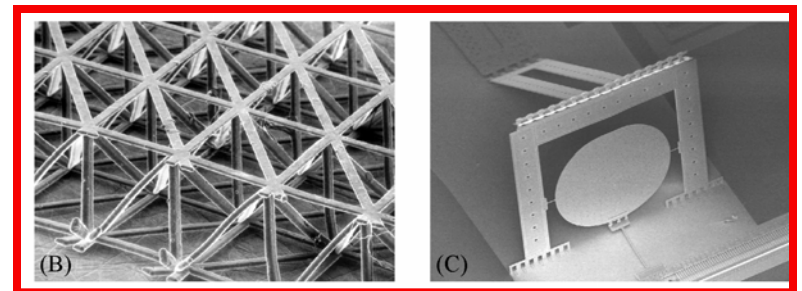
- smaller devices (portability)
- low power consumption
- very inexpensive when mass produced
- because we can.....



“They may or may not be useful, but they surely would be fun to make.”
(Richard Feynman in ‘*There’s Plenty Of Room Near The Bottom*’, 1959)

- **Main materials used:**

- polycrystalline and single-crystal silicon
- silica (SiO_2)
- silicon nitride (Si_3N_4)
- silicon carbide (SiC)
- diamond-like carbon (DLC)

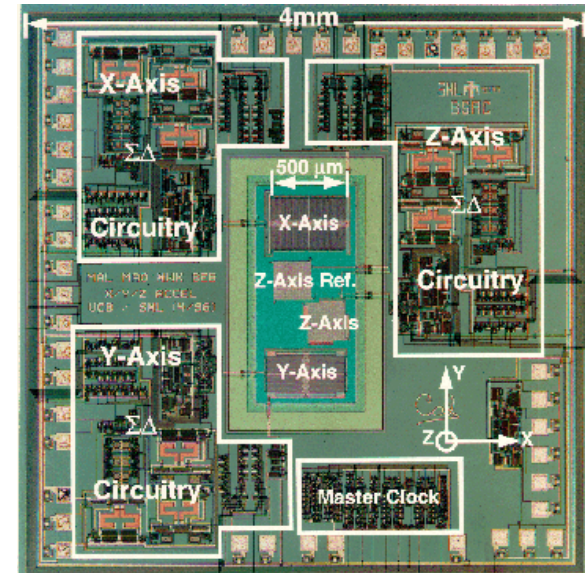


5 μm

What are Micromachines?

- **Micromachines are known as MEMS**

- **m**icro-**e**lectro-**m**echanical-**s**ystems
- many applications are used today
 - inertial sensors (e.g., in air bags)
 - medical devices
 - memory and mass storage
 - micro-mirrors for digital projection
- not to mention future applications
 - “pocket turbines” (to power the soldier of the future!)



Analog Devices air bag sensor

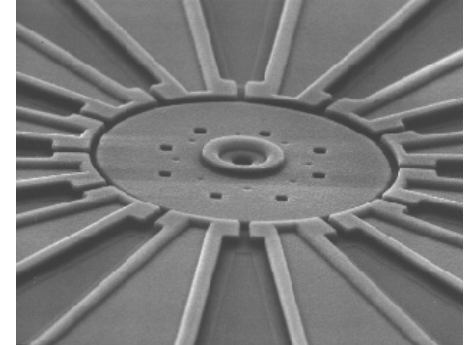
- **Next generation of machines may even be smaller - NEMS**

- **n**ano-**e**lectro-**m**echanical-**s**ystems

Some Definitions

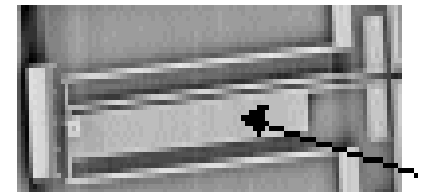
- **MEMS:** a miniaturized device or array of devices consisting of electrical and mechanical components that is fabricated using integrated circuit (IC) batch processing techniques
- **Sensor:** a device that “senses” useful information from its environment and provides output to a measuring instrument
- **Actuator:** a device that can generate a force to manipulate itself, or other devices, to perform some function

100 μm diameter wobble motor

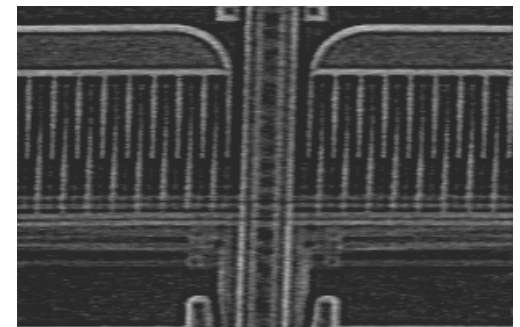


from M. A. Michalick, Un. Colorado

inertial sensor for passive restraint system

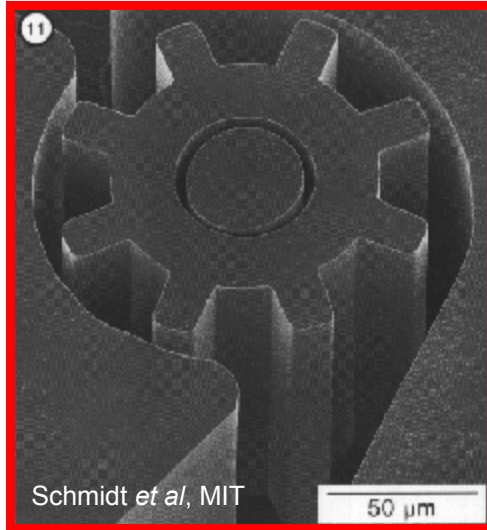


electrostatic motor (“comb drives”)

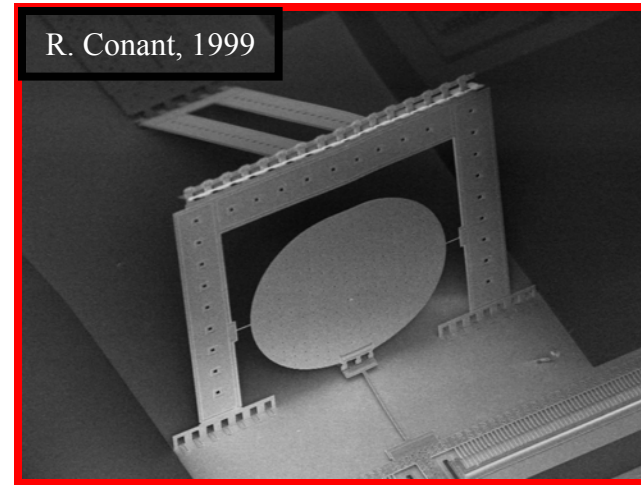


from D-H. Alsem, UCB

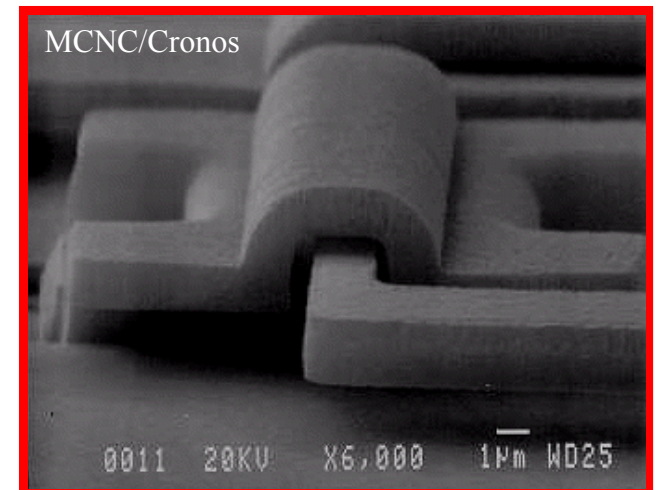
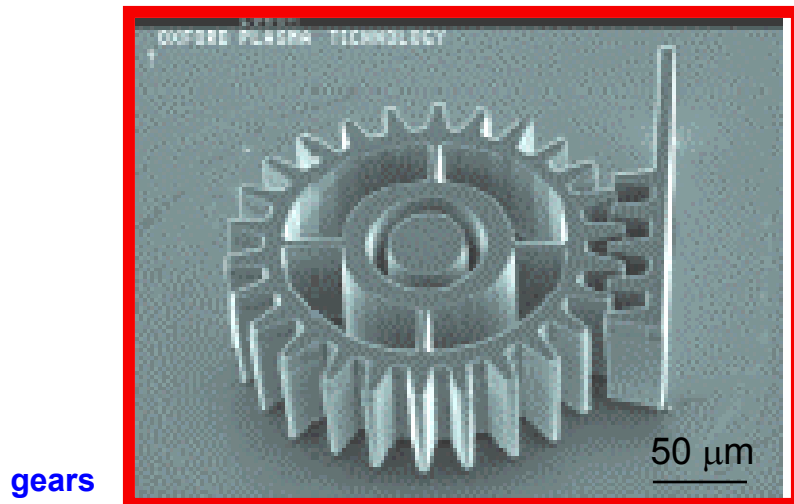
Micromachines or MEMS



microturbine,



micron-scale
moveable mirrors

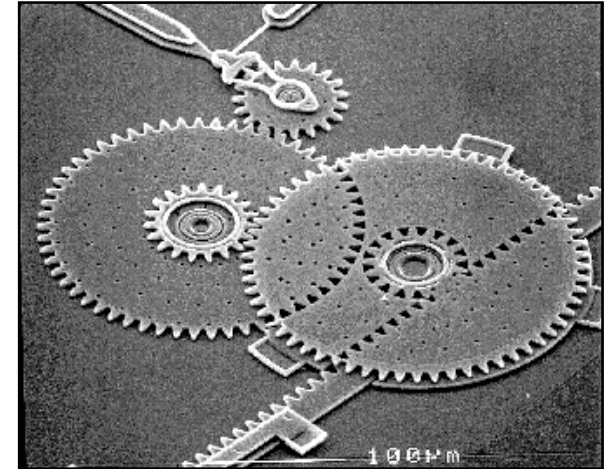
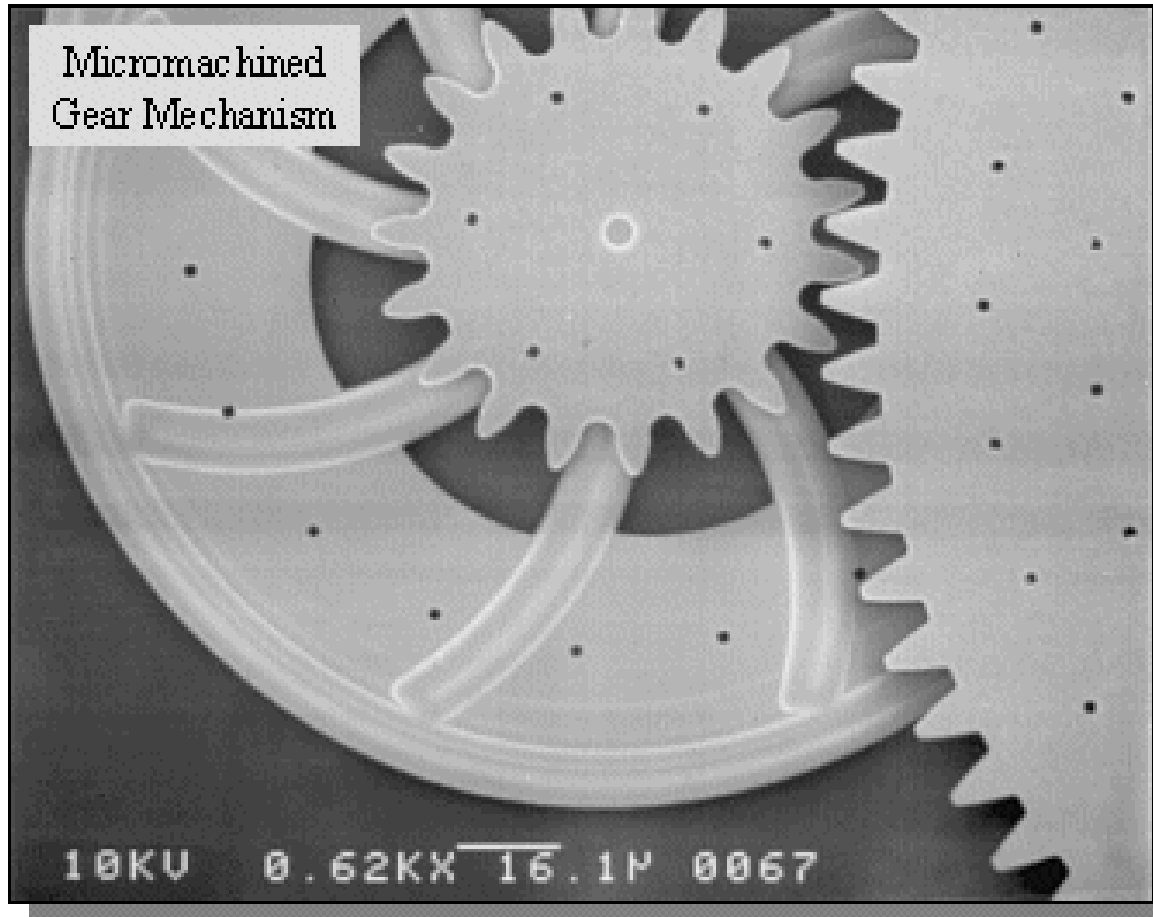


Applications: cogs and gears

J. H. Comtois, Air Force Research Laboratory, 1998.

Sandia Nat.Labs

Micromachined
Gear Mechanism

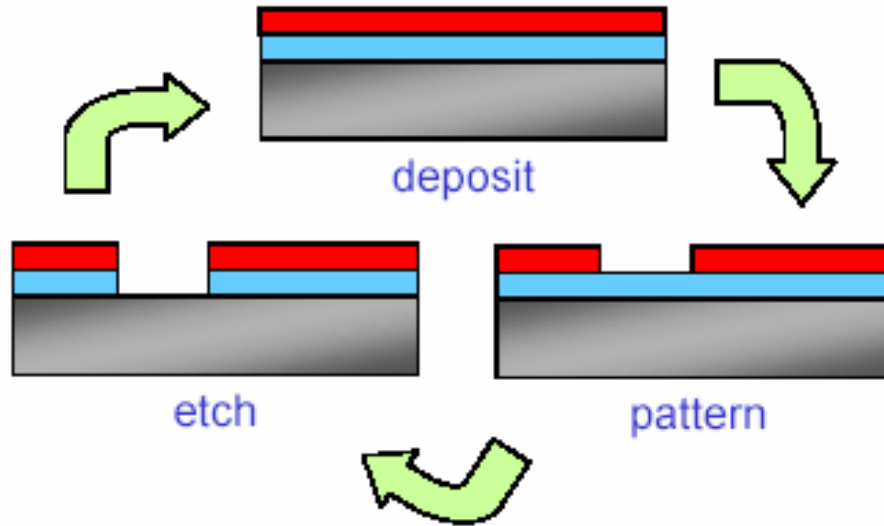


- Micron-scale cogs and gears are used extensively in mechanical micromachines

10 μm



MEMS Fab: surface micromachining

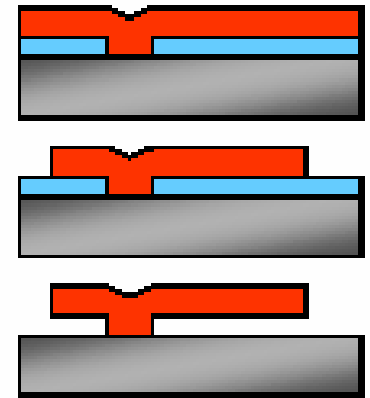


- technique consists of only three major processes:

- deposition
- pattern
- removal

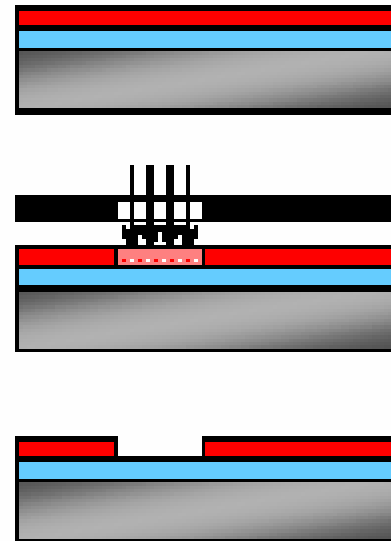
- deposition by:
 - oxidation, chemical-vapor deposition, ion implantation
- patterning by:
 - photolithography
- removal by:
 - etching, evaporation

sacrificial etching



■ sacrificial layer
■ structural layer

photolithography



- 1-10 μ m photoresist coating
- optical exposure thru mask
- dissolve exposed resist (developing)

MEMS Fab: surface micromachining

Start With an Isolation Layer



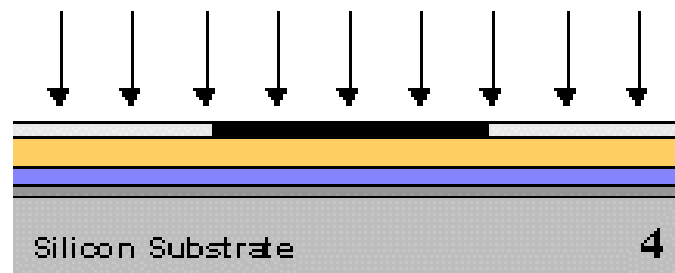
Deposit a Layer of Material



Deposit a Layer of Photoresist



Irradiate Under Binary Photomask



Develop and Remove Excess Photoresist



Etch to Remove Exposed Material



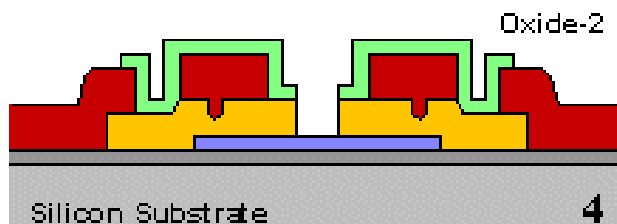
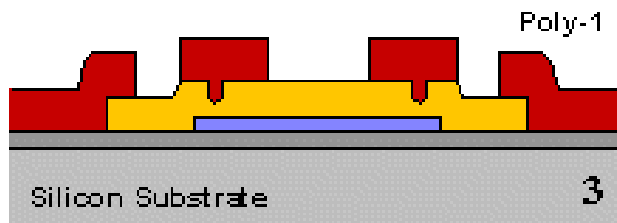
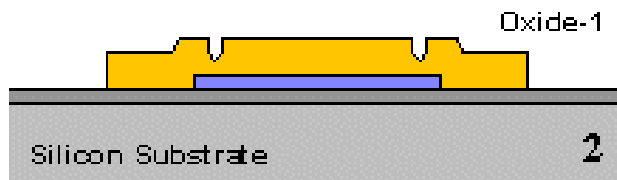
Remove Remaining Photoresist



Steps are repeated for each of the structural and sacrificial layers!

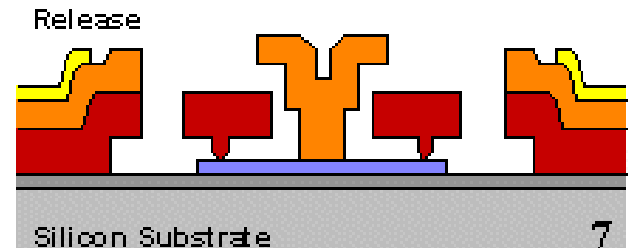
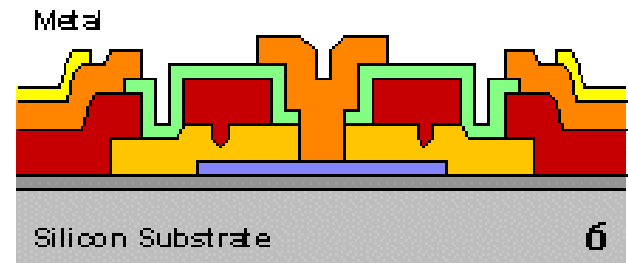
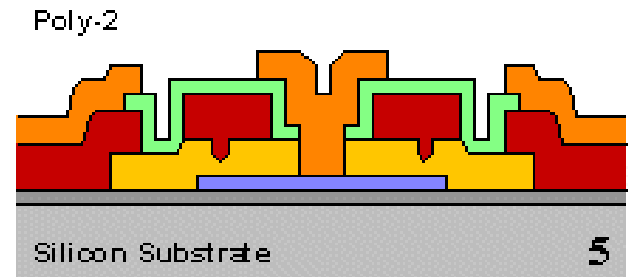
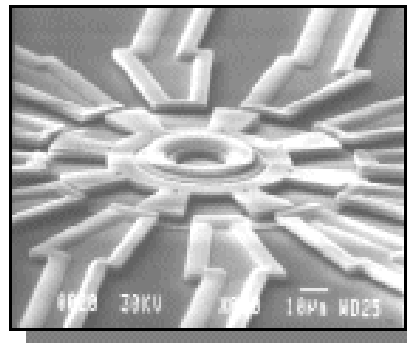
Layer thickness, number of layers, and materials depend on the fabrication technology that is used.

MEMS Fab: micromotor fabrication



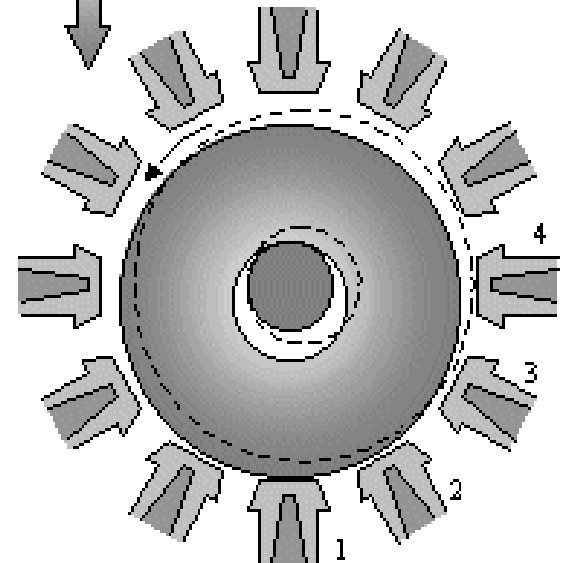
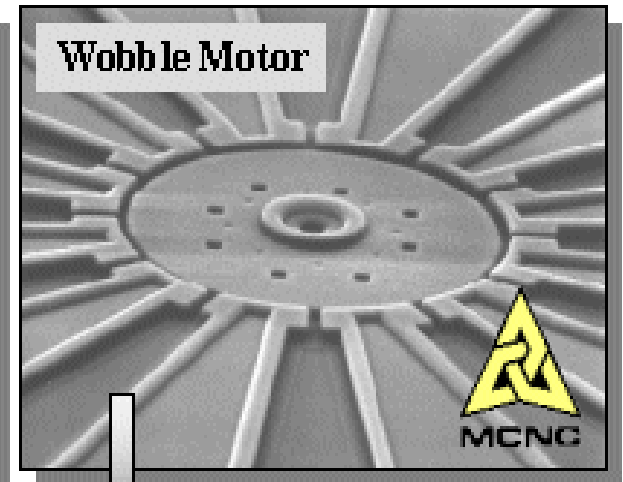
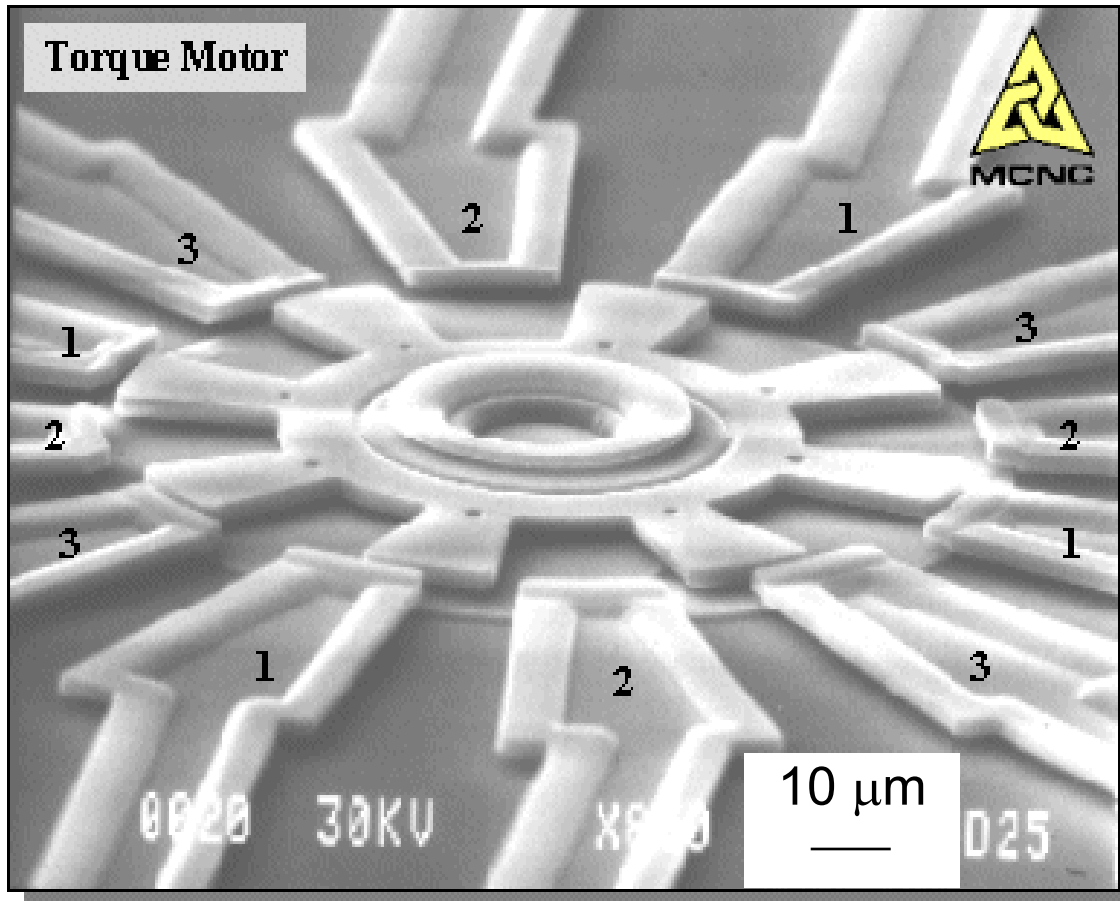
After M CNC,
<http://www.menc.org>

Multi-User MEMS Process (MUMPS)



Applications: wobble motor

Micrographs from M CNC, <http://www.mcnc.org>



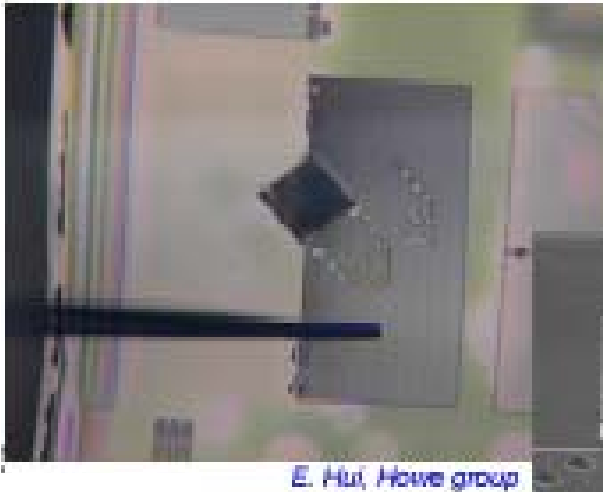
Electrodes are actuated in sequence to produce rotation:

Torque motor uses four sets of three-phase actuators to excite the rotor.

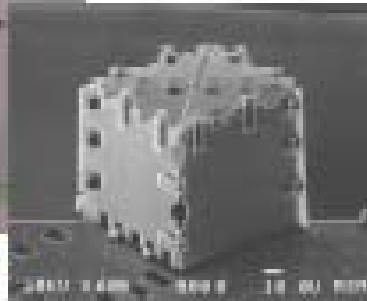
Wobble motor uses twelve distinct electrodes to lead the play in the rotor bearing.

“Pop-Up” MEMS Fabrication

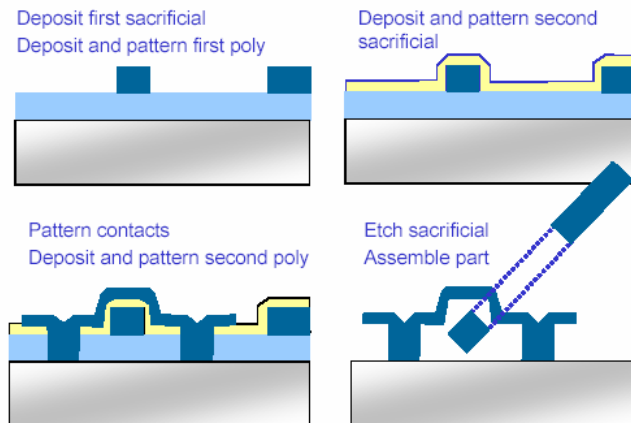
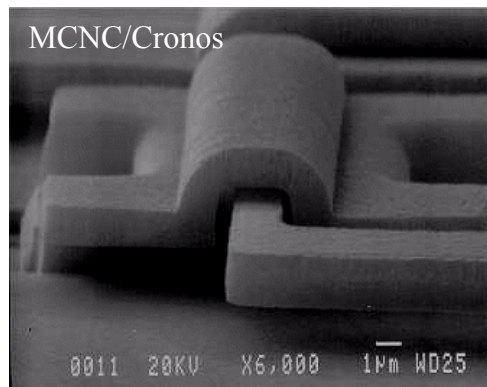
inspired by children’s “pop-up” books



closed box assembly

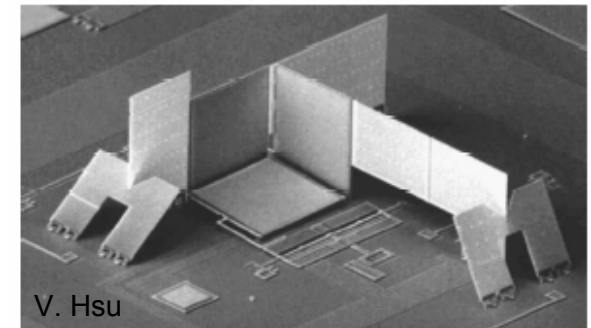


microhinge

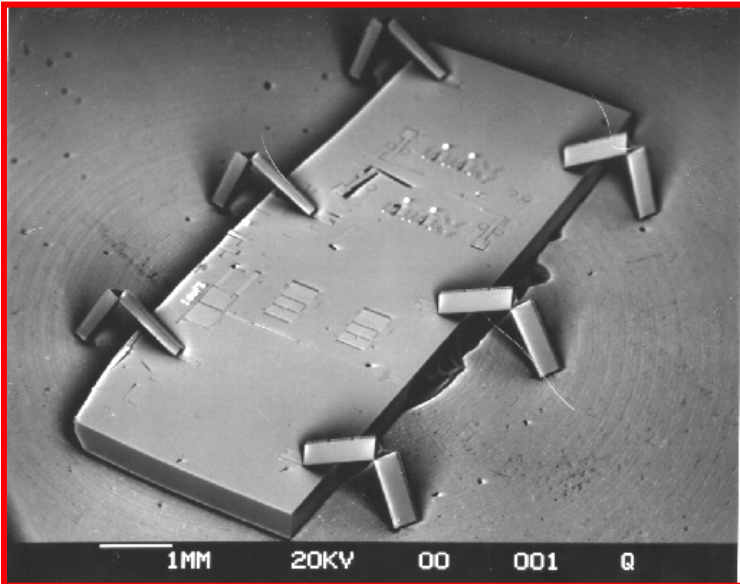


Hinge processing (K.J.S.Pister, BSAC)

corner cube reflector

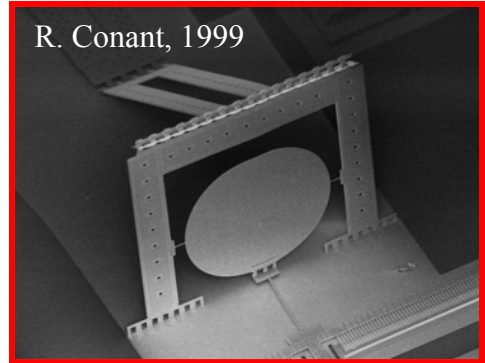


Applications: robots and mirrors

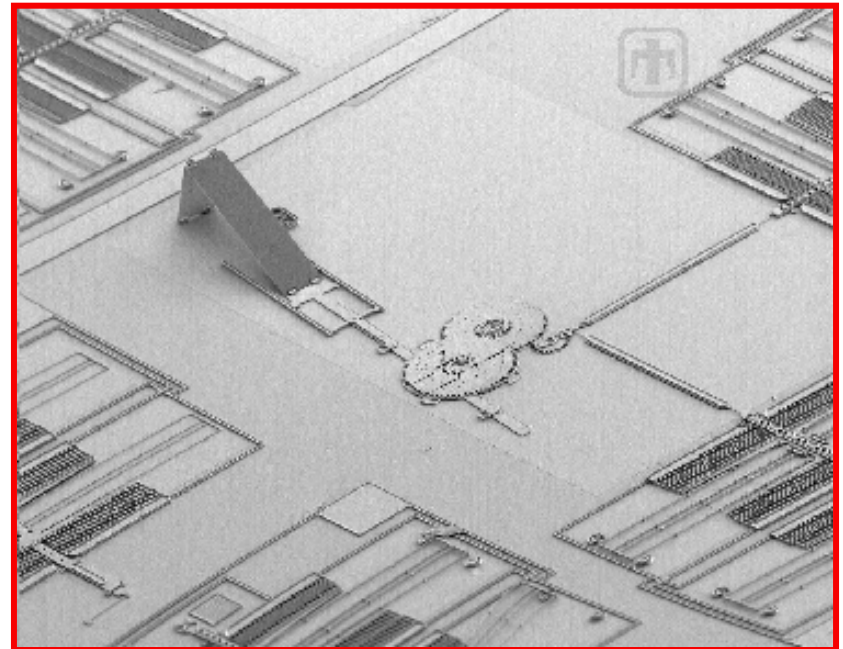


Richard Yeh, BSAC

- Microengine with micro-transmission used to drive a pop-up mirror



R. Conant, 1999

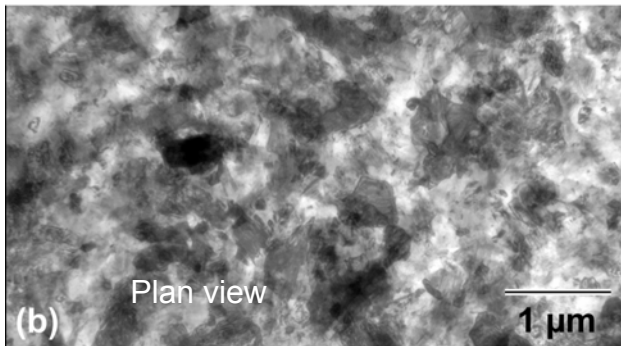


Sandia National Labs

10 μm

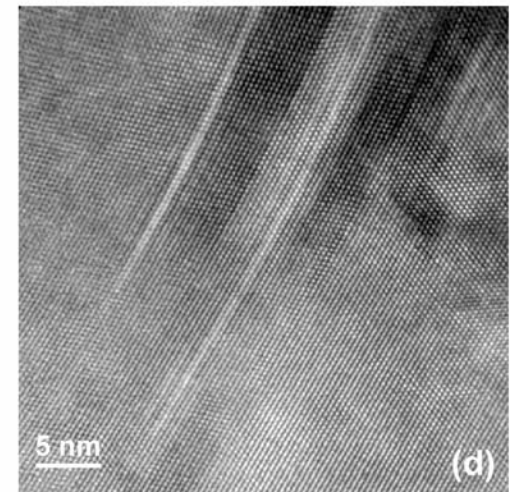
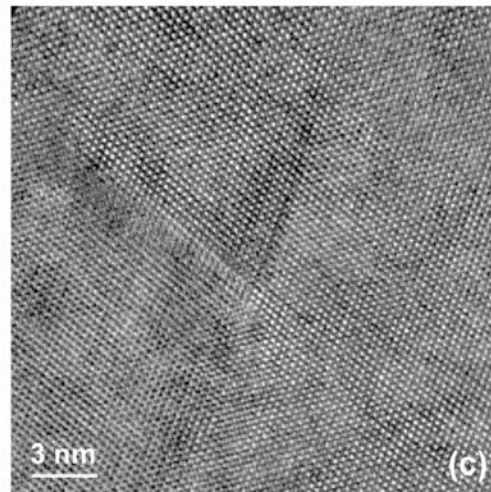
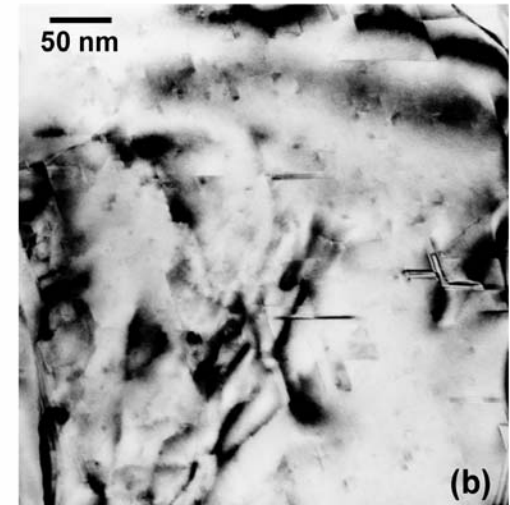
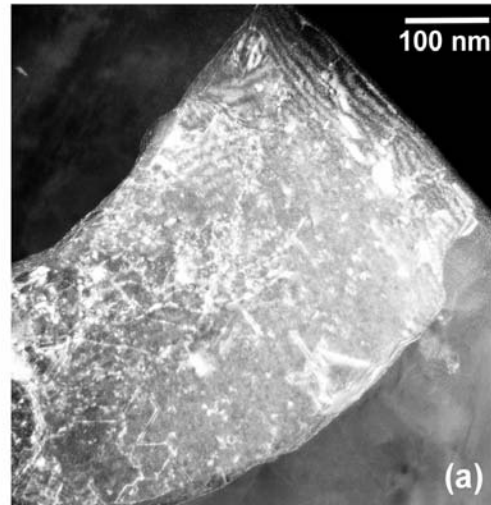
- Millimeter-scale robots, in the form of bugs and flies, use microrobotic components (articulated rigid links, couplings and stepper motors) to control motion

Microstructure of Polysilicon Films



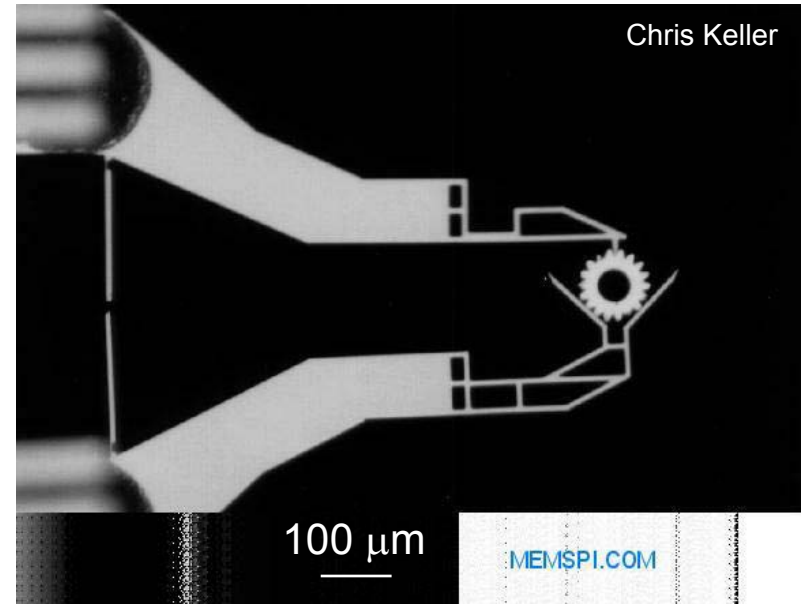
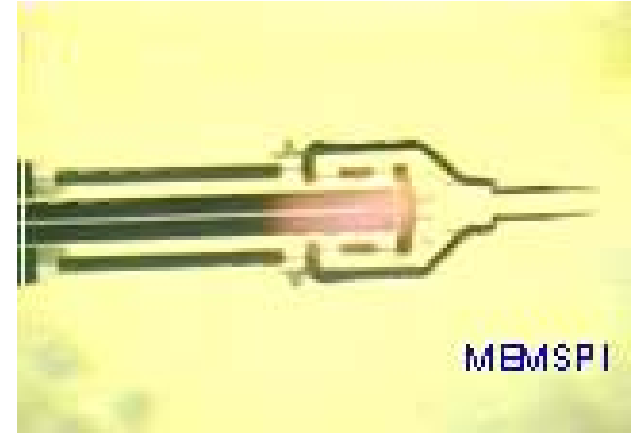
1 MeV HVTEM images

- grain size ~ 100 nm
- twins and defects are present in the atomic structure
- bending strength 3 – 5 GPa



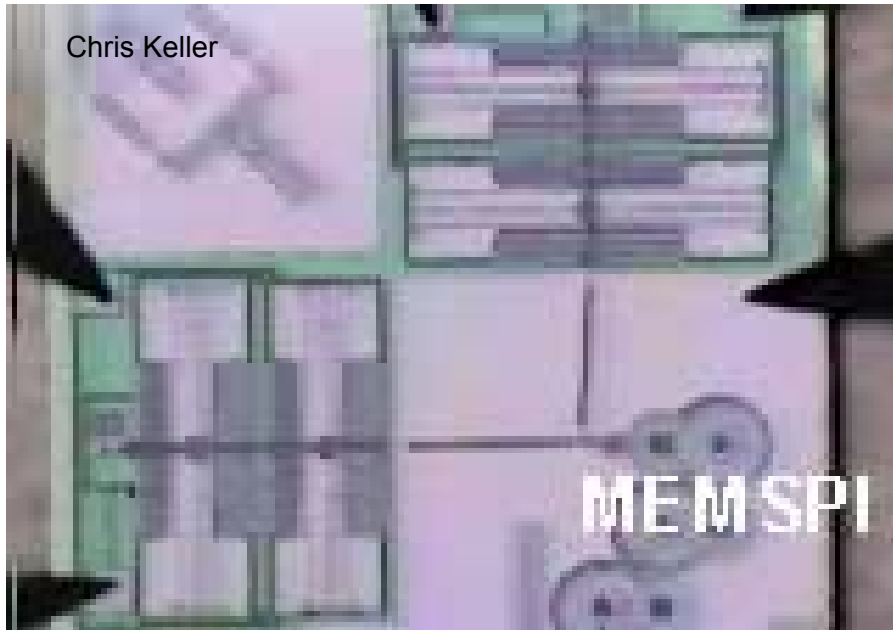
Applications: microtweezers

Devices are manipulated using microtweezers



- microtweezer gripping a 100 μ m tall nickel gear, provided by Sandia National Laboratories

Applications: micromotors



10 μ m

- Sandia microengine moving to rotate gears in a 20,000 to 1 reduction ratio to operate a set of microtweezers



- Rotary stepper motion driven electrostatically

Micromotors and Bugs!

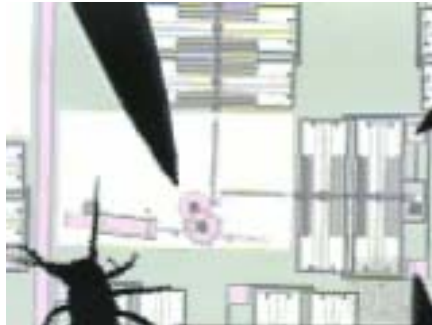


spider
mite
crossing
a gear

two dust
mites on
a rotor
wheel



aphid on a
micromirror

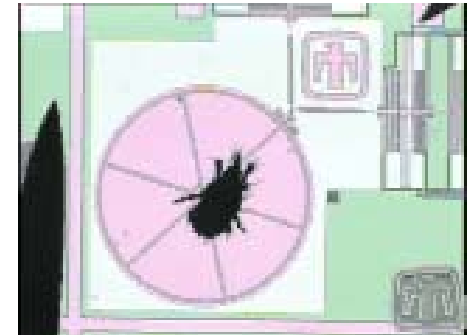


spider mite
“tests” a
micromirror



spider
mite
rides a
large
wheel

..and it
gets a
wee bit
too fast!



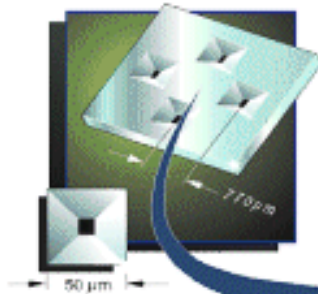
10 μm

Applications: automotive sensors

Courtesy of D. Thomas,
Perkin-Elmer Applied
Biosystems

Inertial Navigation Sensors
• Acceleration
• Yaw Rate

Silicon Nozzles
for Fuel Injection



Air-Conditioning
Compressor
Sensor

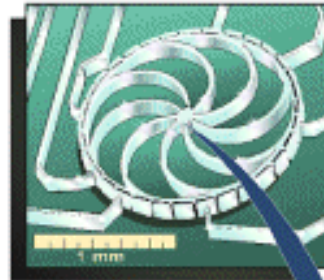
Manifold
Air
Pressure
Sensor

Mass
Air Flow
Sensor

Accelerometer
for Suspension
Control

Force Sensors
• Brakes
• Throttle Pedals

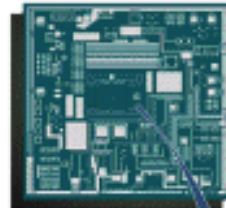
Pressure and Inertial
Sensors for
Braking Control



Fuel
Pressure
Sensor

Micromachined Transducer

Applications for Automotive
Operation & Safety



Micromachined
Accelerometer
for Airbag

Microphones
for Noise
Cancellation

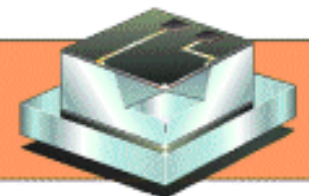
Airbag
Side Impact
Sensor

Fuel Sensors
• Level
• Vapor Pressure

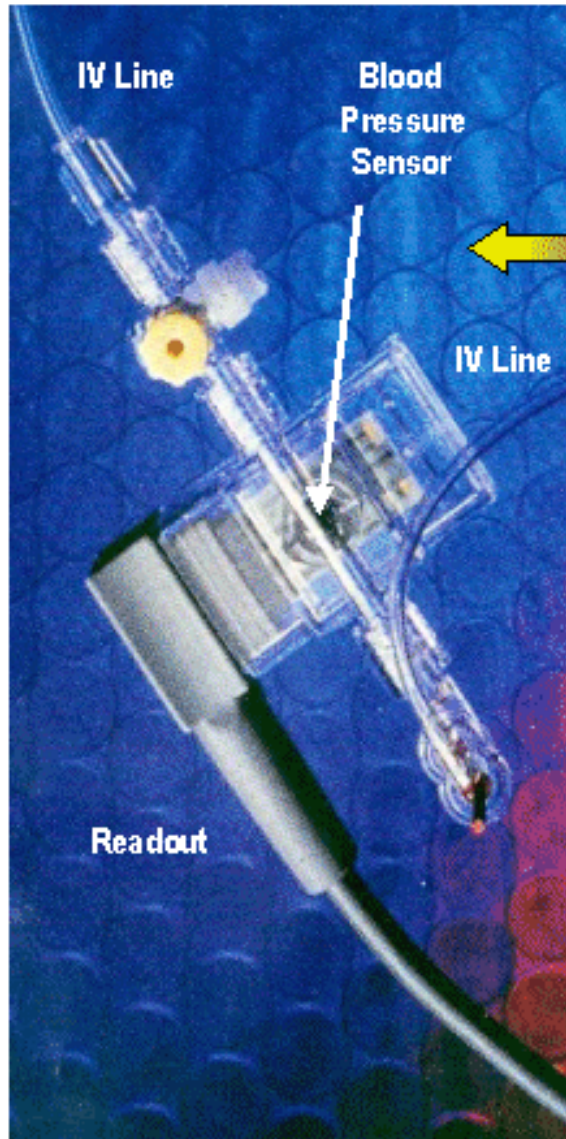
Crash
Sensor

Exhaust
Gas
Sensor

Tire
Pressure
Sensors

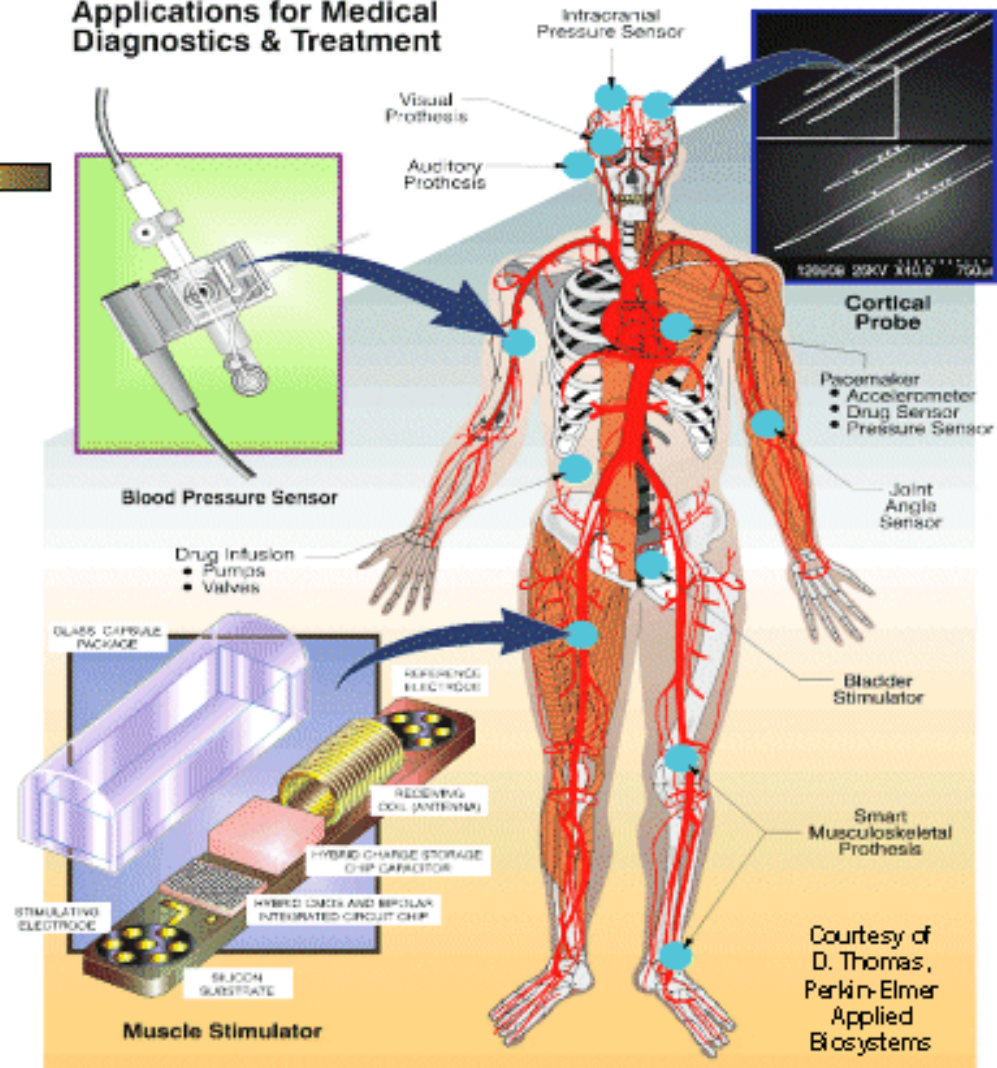


Applications: medical implants



Micromachined Transducer

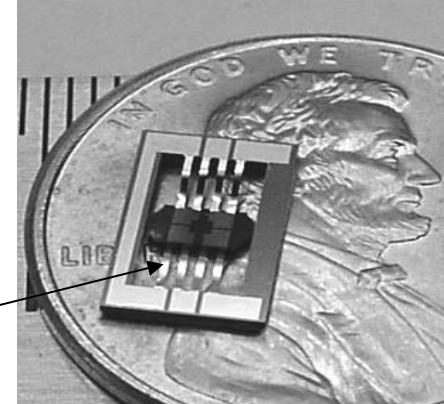
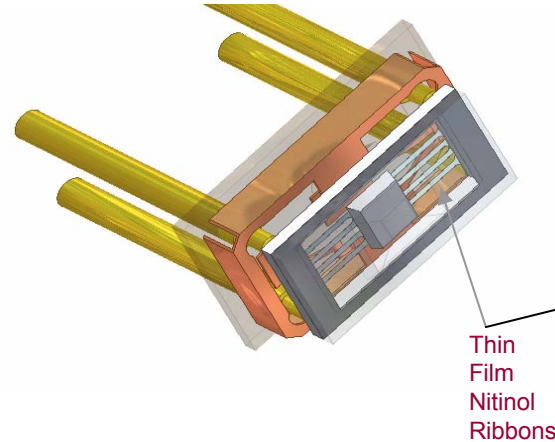
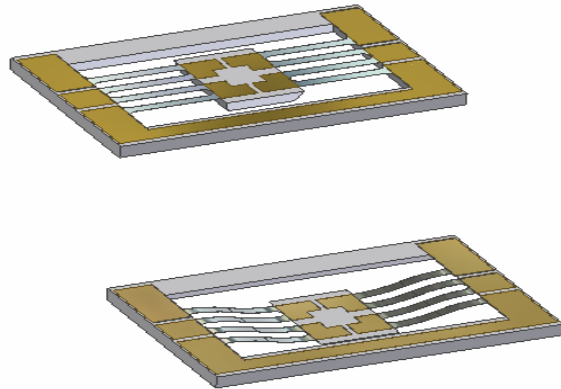
Applications for Medical Diagnostics & Treatment



Courtesy of
D. Thomas,
Perkin-Elmer
Applied
Biosystems

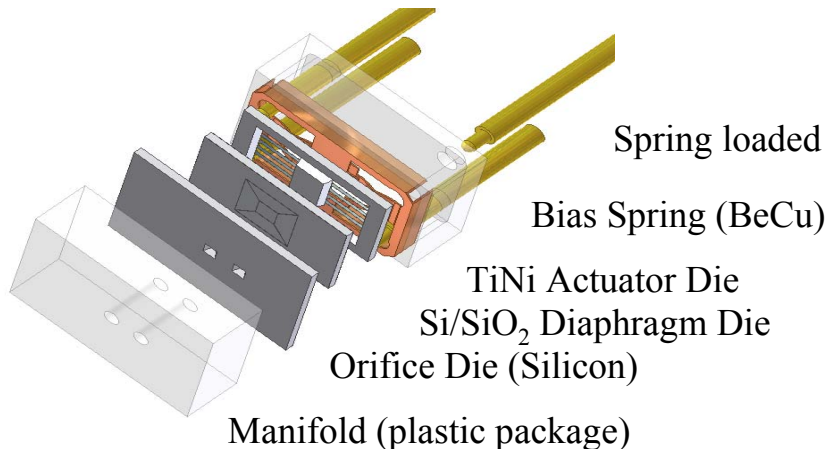
Nitinol thin-films structures

Nitinol thin-film actuators



Nitinol thin-film actuated liquid microvalve

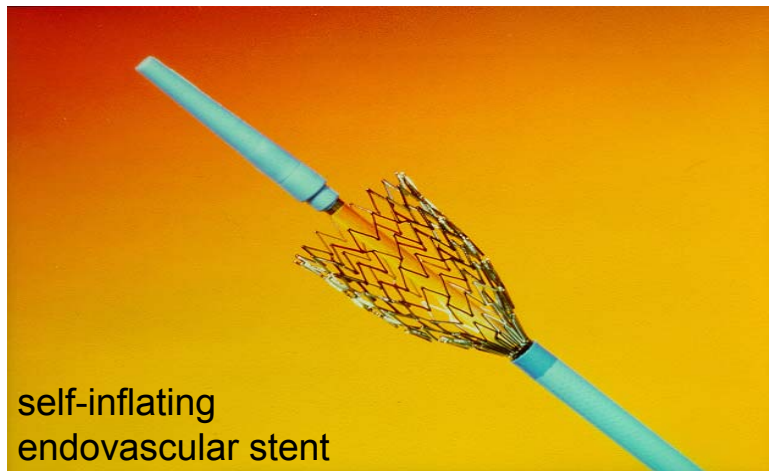
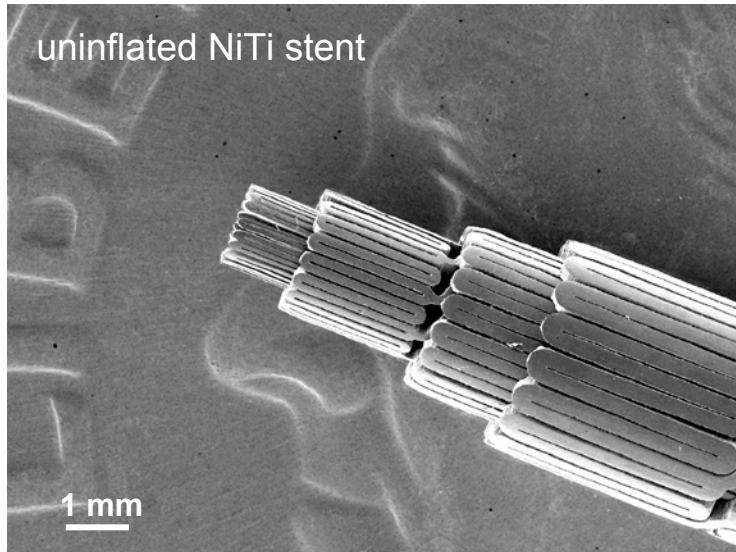
- actuator can deliver a force of 0.5 N
- each gram of Nitinol can deliver 1-6 joules/cycle, far more than the 0.01 joules/cycle for an electrostatic actuator



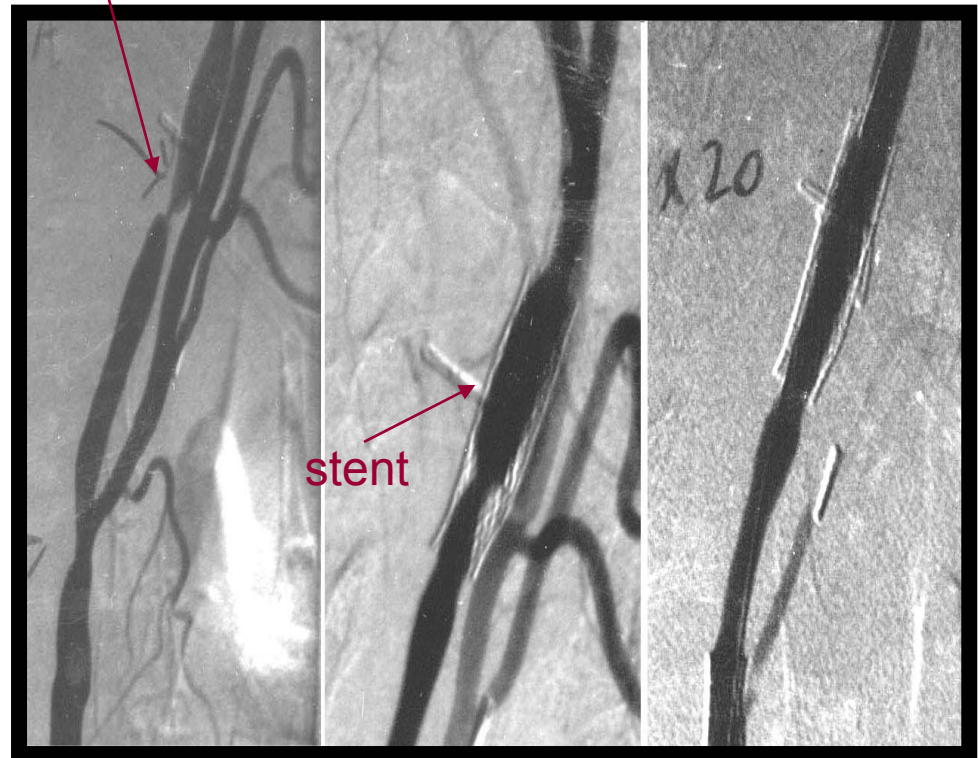
Nitinol is a 50:50 Ni-Ti alloy with shape-memory and superelastic characteristics

Stenting of Arteries

- Stents manufactured with:
 - stainless steel
 - cobalt-chromium alloy
 - Nitinol (Ni-Ti alloy)

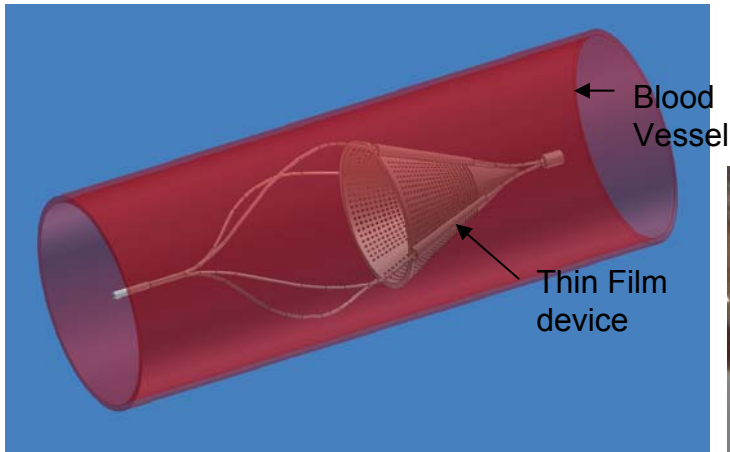


occlusion



Nitinol thin-films structures

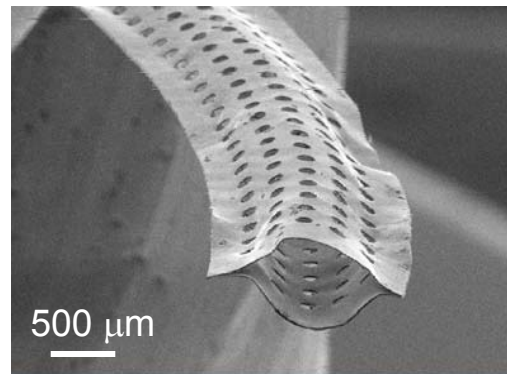
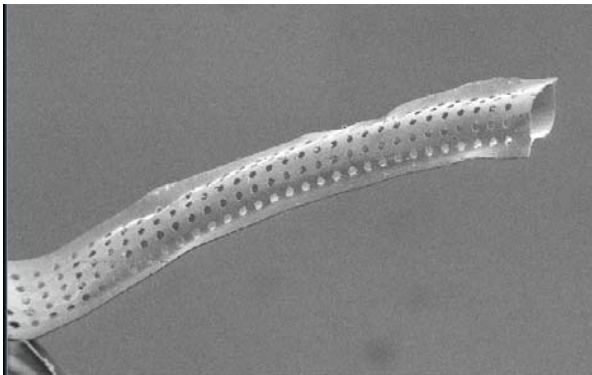
Intravascular blood clot retriever device



- “microfabled” from 5 μm thick thin film Nitinol



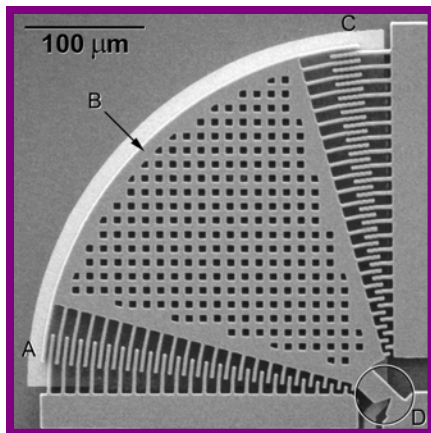
Stents for the human eye



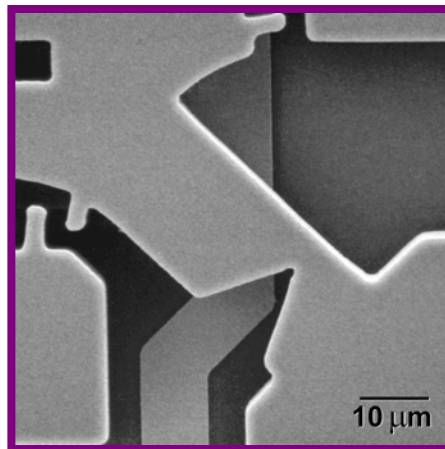
- tiny thin-film stents that are implanted into the Schlen's canals that drain fluid around the iris of the eye

Mechanical Testing at the Micro/Nano Scale

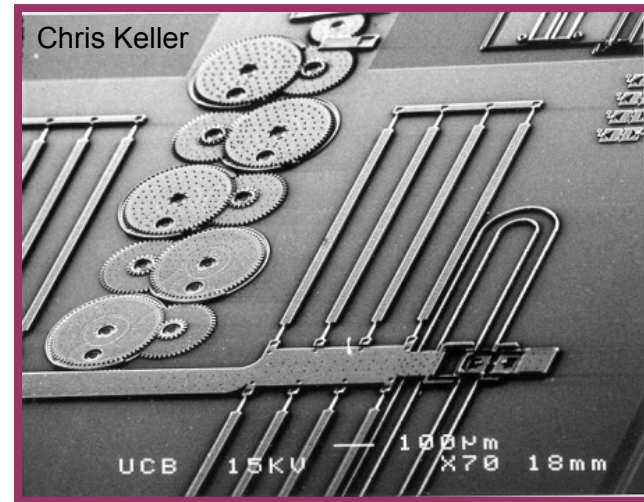
- assessing the mechanical properties of materials and components at the micro- and nano-scales is of critical importance for device reliability and durability
- current technologies are essentially at the micro-scale, although research shrinking these techniques to smaller dimensions



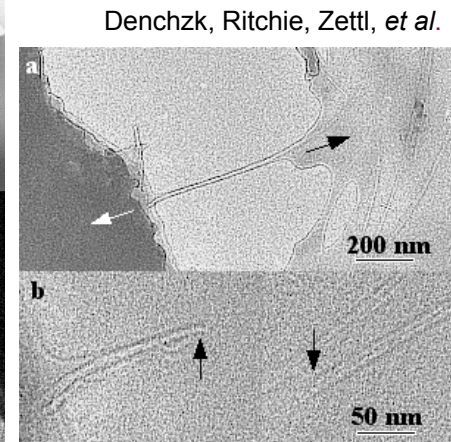
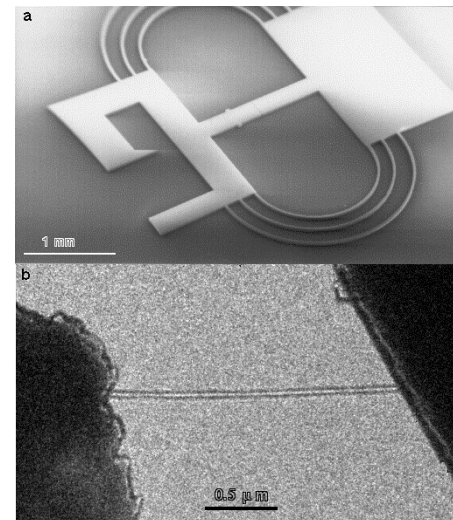
on-chip resonant fatigue device used to evaluate the high-cycle fatigue endurance of 2-μm thick silicon films



Brown, Van Arsdell, Muhlstein, *et al.*



electrostatically-driven mechanical testing system designed to operate *in situ* in the TEM



in situ mechanical test in the TEM to measure the strength of a 12-nm thick carbon nanotube

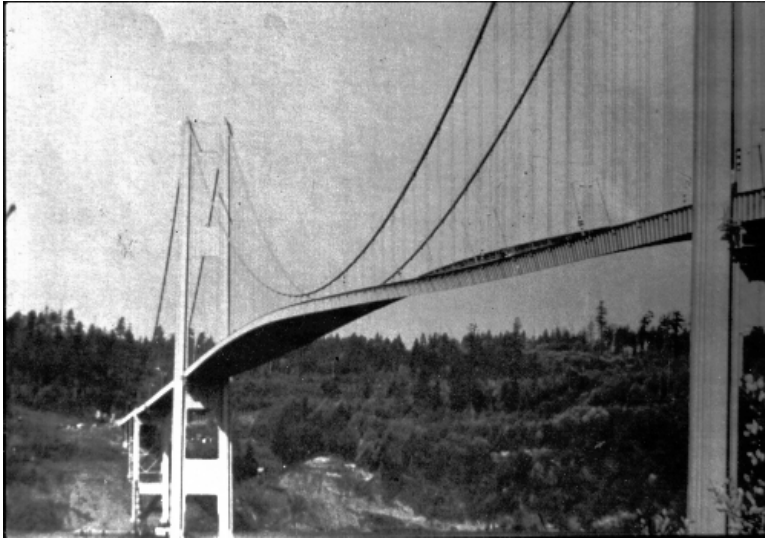


How do things break?

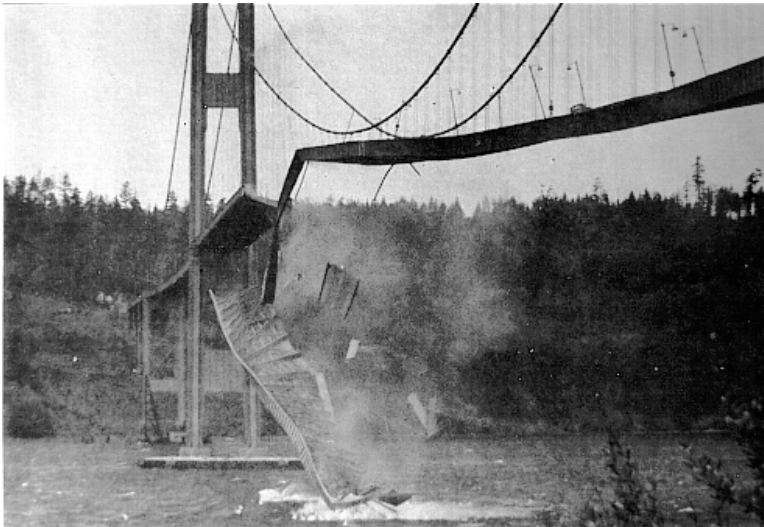


- by plastic deformation - yielding
 - e.g., by bending a paper clip
- by (instantaneous) fracture
 - e.g., by breaking a pencil or a tooth or by impact fracture
- by fatigue (delayed fracture)
 - e.g., by bending that paper clip back and forth several times
- by environmentally-assisted cracking (delayed fracture)
 - e.g., by bending that paper clip back and forth under (salt) water
- by wear (surface damage)
 - e.g., by simply wearing something out

Failure by Plastic Deformation



- plastic (permanent) deformation of a bridge
- deformation led to eventual collapse
- Tacoma Narrows suspension bridge, near Puget Sound, failed on at 11 am Nov. 7, 1940, after only having been open for traffic a few months

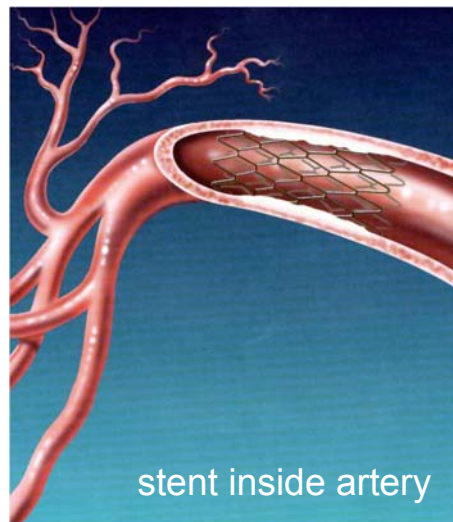


Failure by Plastic Deformation



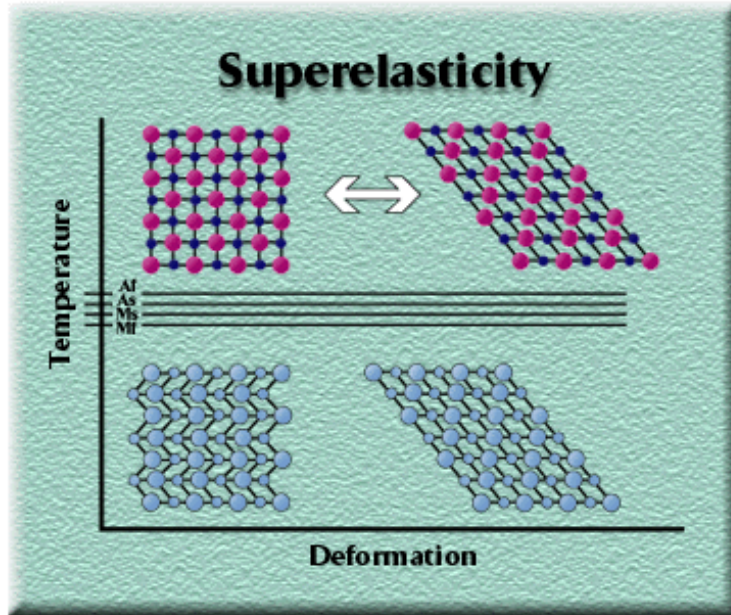
Nitinol is a 50:50 nickel-titanium alloy

- most materials only deform reversibly (i.e., elastically) when deformed a small amount (e.g., when stretched for less than 1% change in length)
- after that the deformation is permanent (plastic deformation)
- however, a very few metals, so-called shape-memory/superelastic metals, e.g., Nitinol, are much more flexible



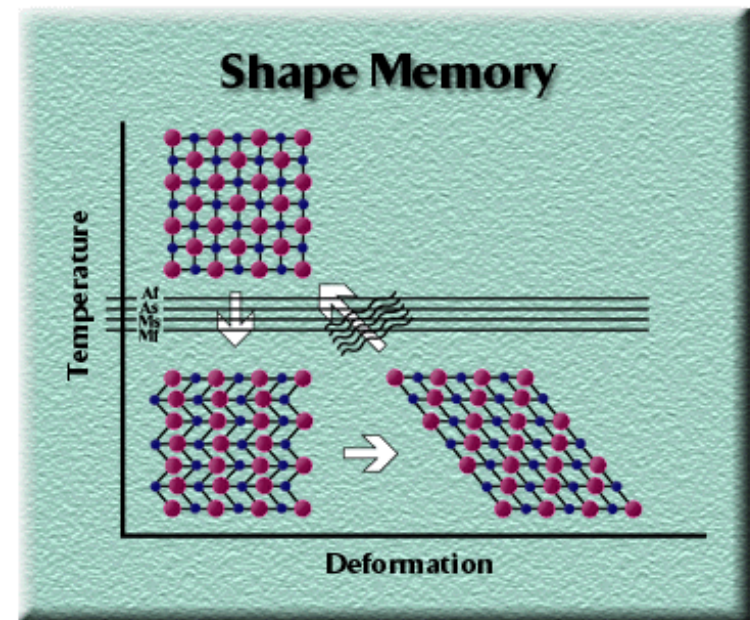
Nitinol is used for eye-glass frames, dental drills and endovascular stents

Superelastic/Shape-Memory Alloys



- **Superelasticity** is the property of a material to display very large elastic (reversible) deformation
- most metals show 1% elastic elongation; superelastic metals, such as Nitinol and Cu-Al-Ni can show ~8 to 15%

- **Shape memory** is the property of a metal that is deformed at a lower temperature to return to its original shape when the temperature is raised again
- both phenomena result from a reversible change in atomic structure of the metal, on heating/cooling or deformation





How do things break?



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- by wear (surface damage)
 - e.g., by simply wearing something out

Instantaneous Impact Fracture



Brittle fracture of SS Schenectady, Jan. 1943

- initially, some 30% of Liberty ships suffered catastrophic failure
- cracks started at stress concentrations (e.g., hatchways) and propagated rapidly through the steel hull as the metal became too brittle at low temperatures

- 500 T2 tankers and 2700 Liberty ships were built during WWII
- prefabricated all-welded construction, with brittle steel
- one vessel was built in 5 days!



SS John P. Gaines split in two in 1943

Instantaneous Impact Fracture



- Air France charter flight from Paris to New York - July 25, 2000
- the Concorde crashed into a hotel shortly after take-off, 5 miles from airport, with 109 fatalities
- attributed to a piece of metal on the runway causing the bursting of a tire
- the impact of the tire debris on the fuel tank punctured it, leading to loss of engine power, and the subsequent crack
- an example of *foreign-object damage (FOD)*



How do things break?



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 - e.g., by simply wearing something out

Fatigue & Delayed Fracture



- De Havilland Comet, first commercial jet aircraft, had five major crashes in 1952 - 54 period
- caused by fatigue cracks initiated at square windows, driven by cabin pressurization and depressurization



- Aloha Airlines Boeing 737, in route from Hilo to Honolulu (April 1998) undergoes explosive decompression – 1 fatality
- caused by a weakening of the fuselage due to corrosion and small cracks – led to Aging Aircraft Initiative





How do things break?



- by plastic deformation - yielding
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- **by wear (surface damage)**
 - e.g., by simply wearing something out

Failure due to Wear

- A major wear problem is with railroad tracks, where surface wear from metal-to-metal rolling contact can damage the rails leading to derailment

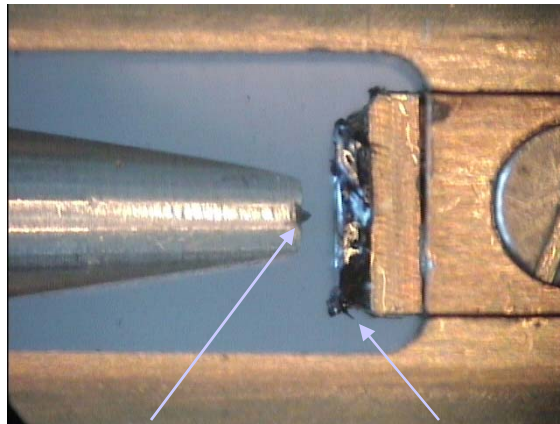


Rail collapse leads to derailment of a locomotive in Driffield, UK, in 1981



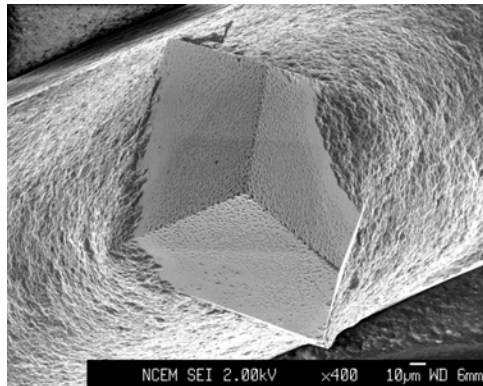
Derailed 100 ton tank wagon and the rest of the train in Lincolnshire, UK in 1982

Nano-indentation Methods



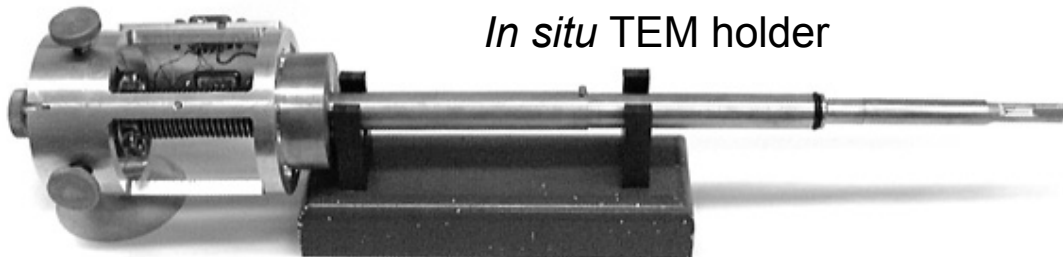
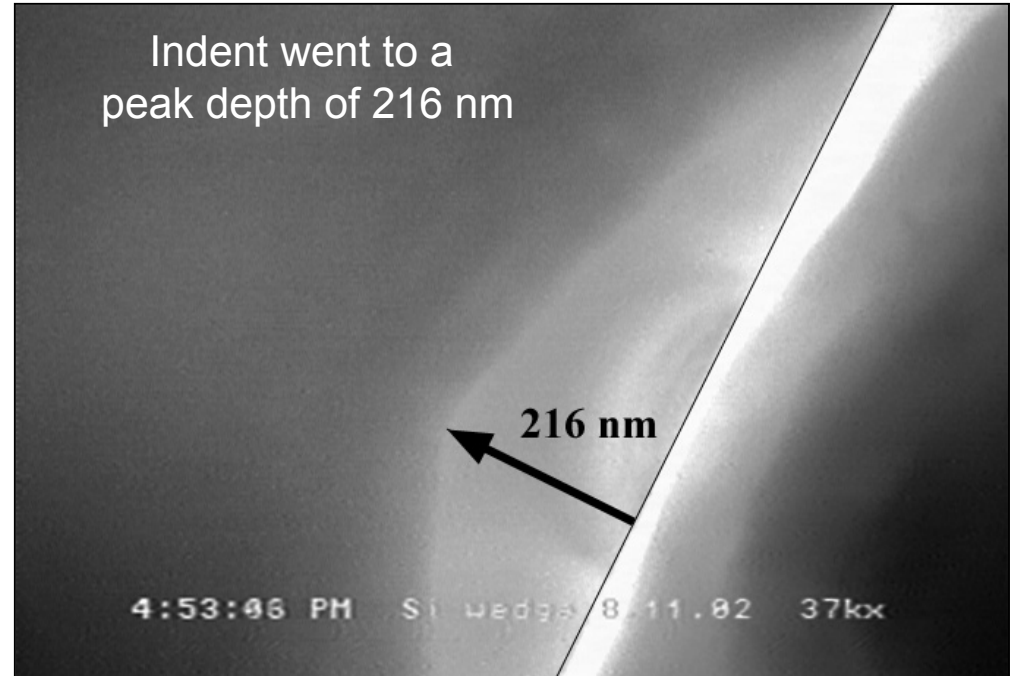
diamond

sample



indenter

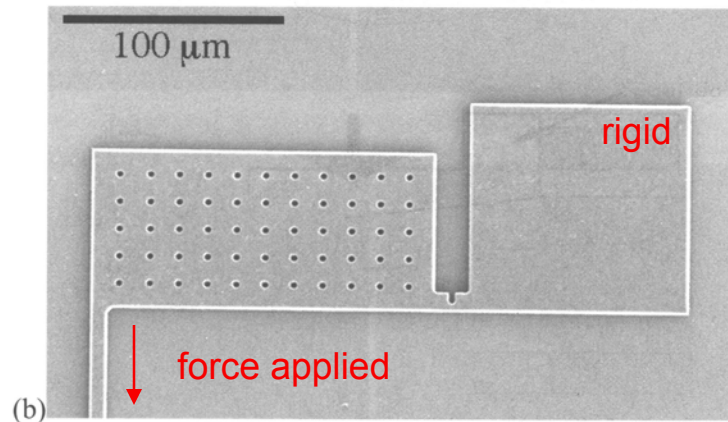
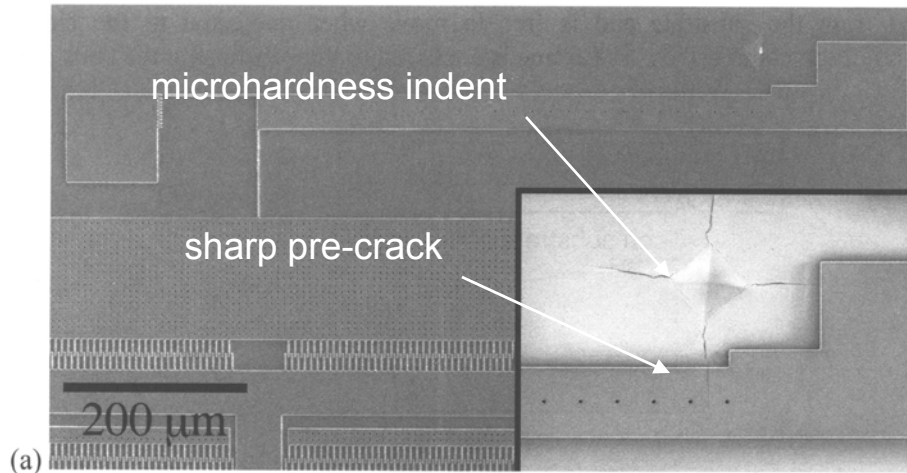
In situ sample geometry



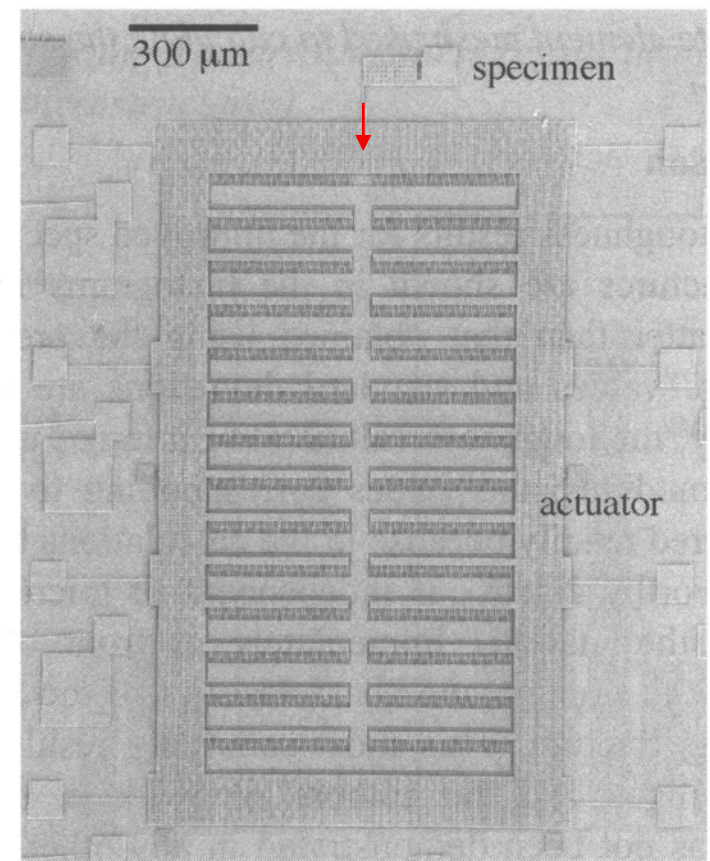
In situ TEM holder

- indenter is mechanically driven into the surface of a material
- the response of the material is measured (stress v. strain)
- the deformation is imaged

Measurement of Fracture Resistance



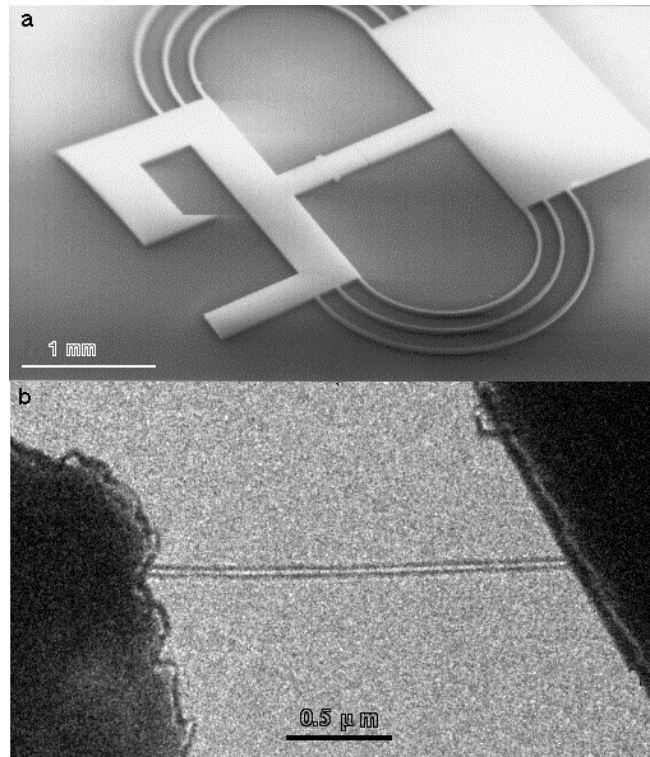
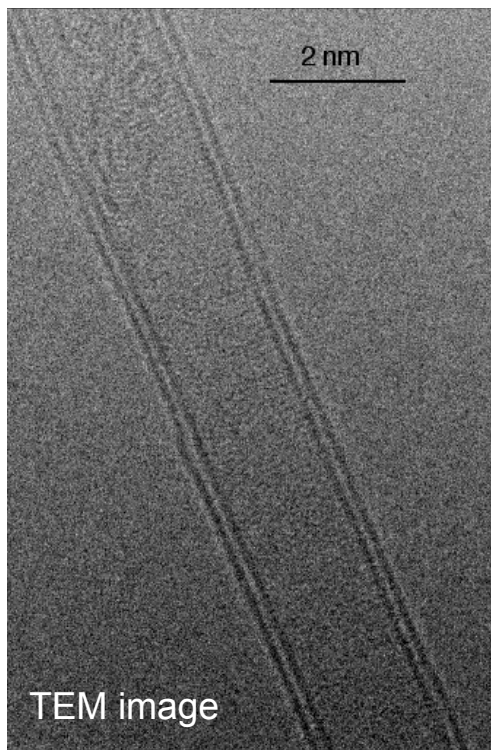
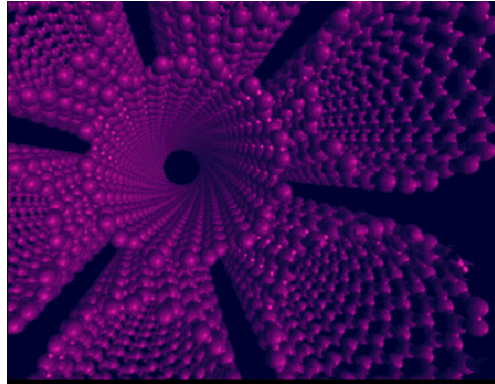
- a cantilever is partially cracked and then broken in bending



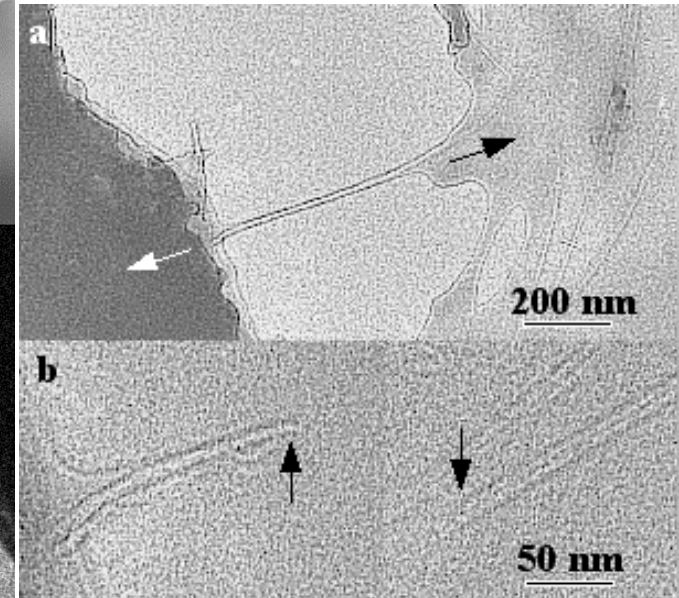
- measurement of the fracture resistance, i.e., the fracture toughness, of thin-film silicon using MEMS

Mechanical Testing of Carbon Nanotubes

- Carbon nanotubes, few nm in diameter, claimed to be the world's strongest material!

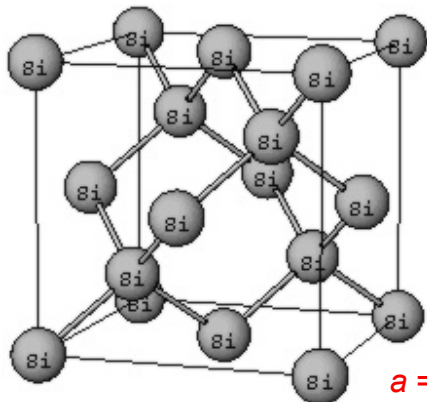


in situ mechanical test in TEM to measure the strength of a 12-nm thick carbon nanotube



- Strength of the nanotube was measured as 150 GPa, i.e., roughly 5 times stronger than Kevlar or carbon fibers and more than 50 times stronger than hardened steel

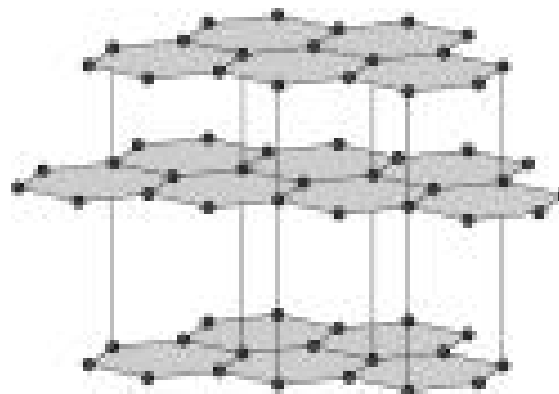
Alloptropic Forms of Carbon



diamond

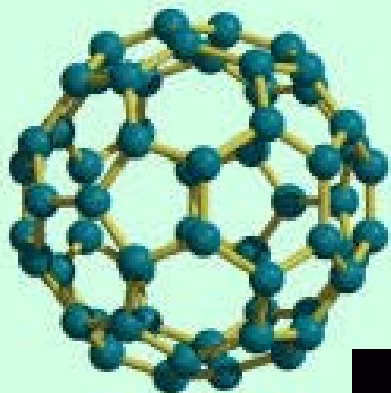
- all strong (covalent) bonds

$a = 0.534 \text{ nm}$



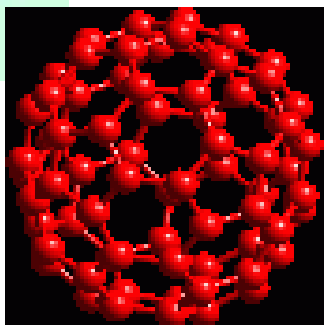
graphite

- strong bonds in layers
- weak (Van der Waals) bonds between layers



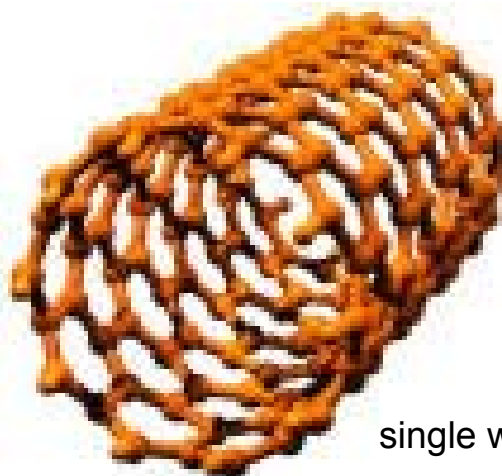
carbon C_{60}

- all strong (covalent) bonds



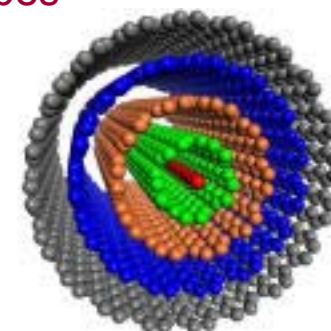
carbon C_{70}

carbon nanotubes



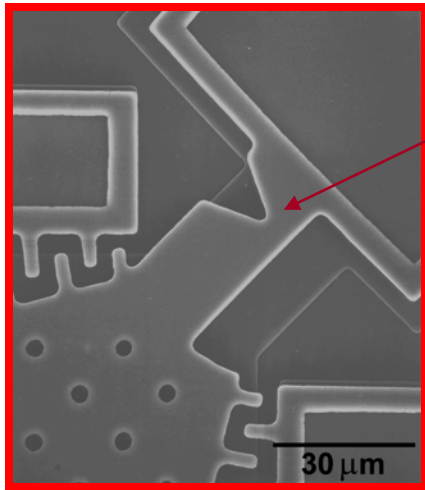
single wall

- strong bonds in tubes
- weak bonds between tubes

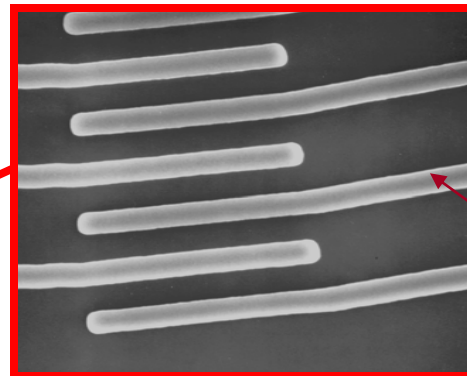
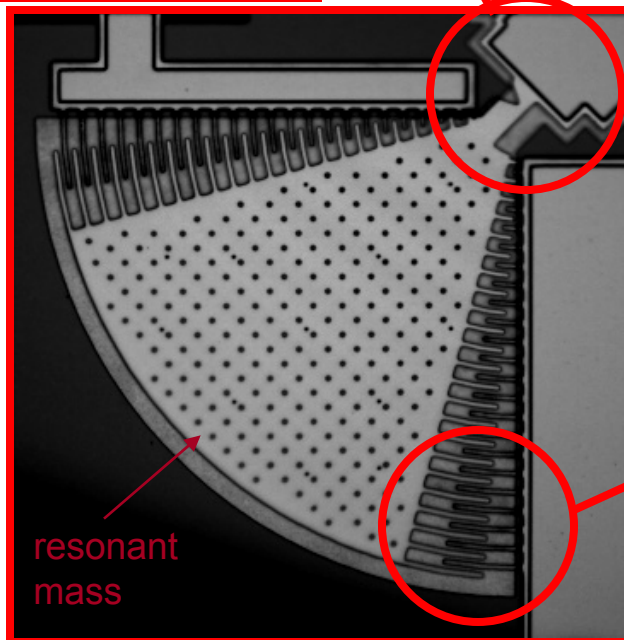


multi wall

Measurement of Fatigue Resistance

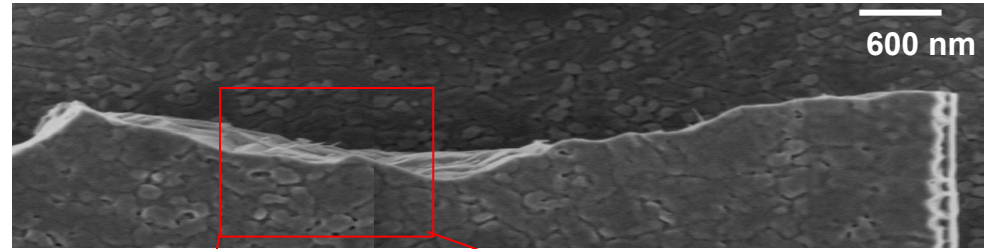


- notched cantilever beam attached to ~ 300 μm square perforated mass
- mass resonates at a frequency of 40 kHz, driven by “comb drives” on one side
- other side provides a means to measure displacements by capacitive sensing of motion; loads are computed numerically
- device is micro-fabricated from thin-film silicon (1 to 20 μm thick) with smallest notch root radius (1 – 1.5 μm) achieved by photolithographic masking

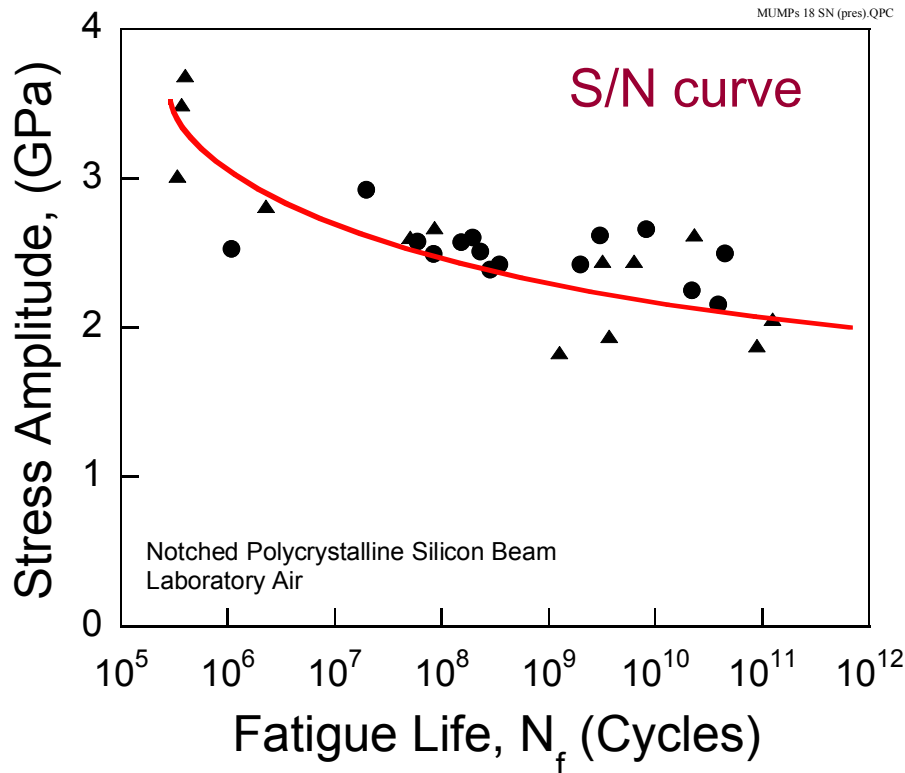
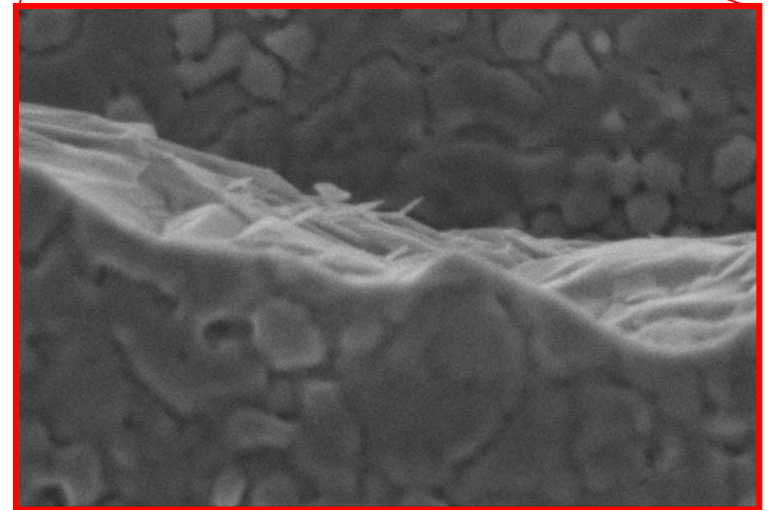


Fatigue of $2\mu\text{m}$ Polysilicon Films

- Micron-scale polycrystalline silicon films suffer delayed failure by fatigue
- Films can fail after 10^{10} cycles (3 days) at stresses of one half their fracture strength

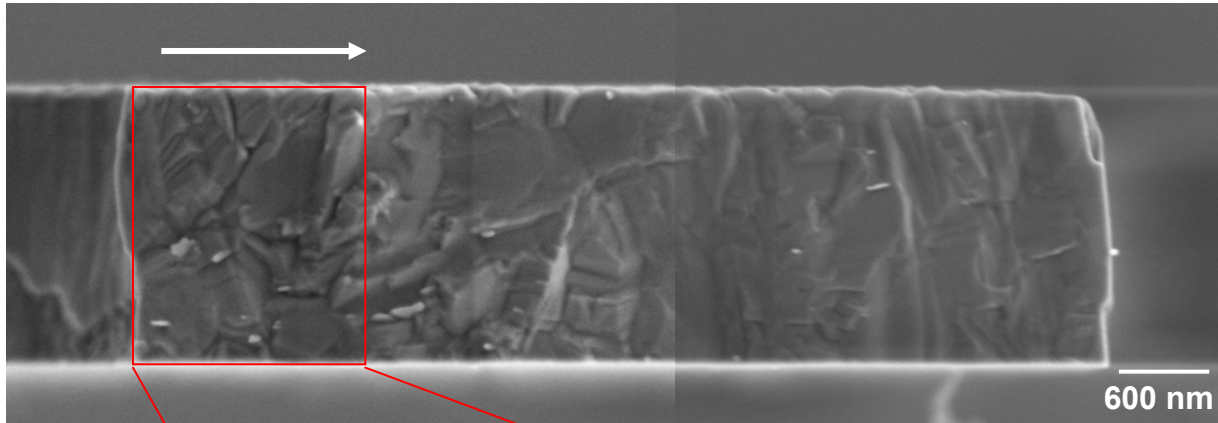


3.8×10^{10} cycles to failure

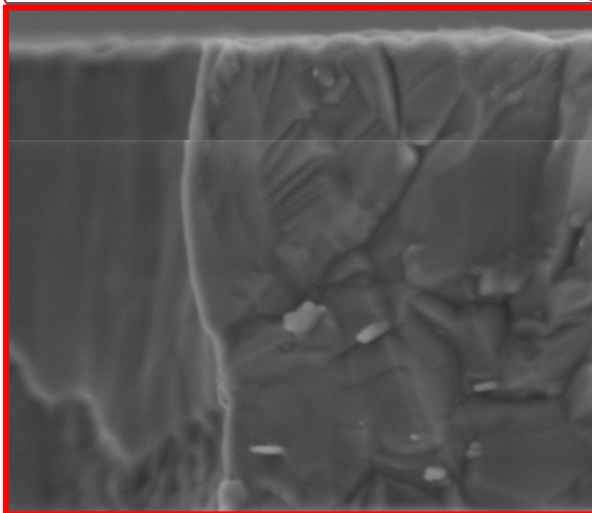


stress = load/area

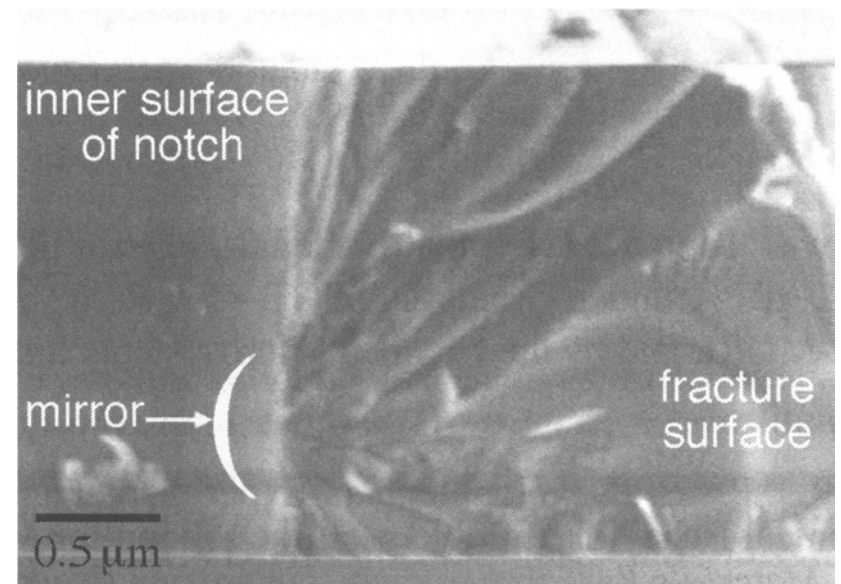
Fracture Surfaces of Silicon Films



cleavage fracture
surfaces in silicon
thin films



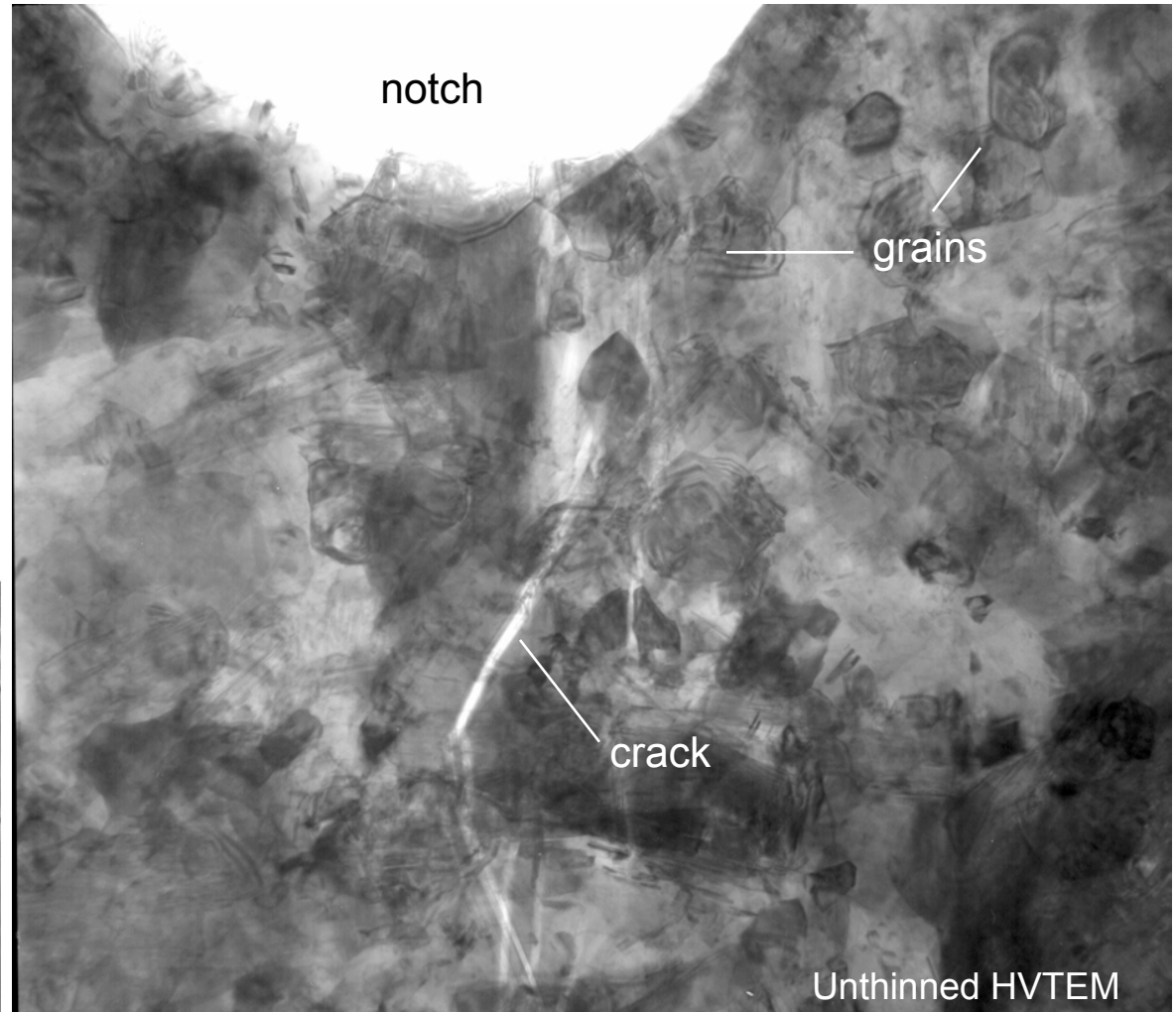
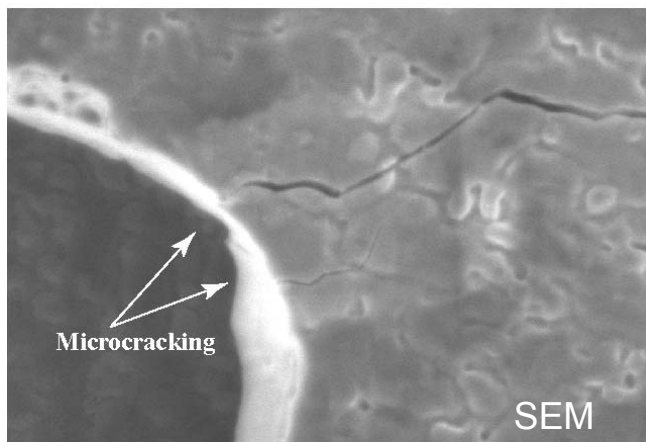
Muhlstein, Brown, Ritchie, *Sensors & Actuators*, 2001



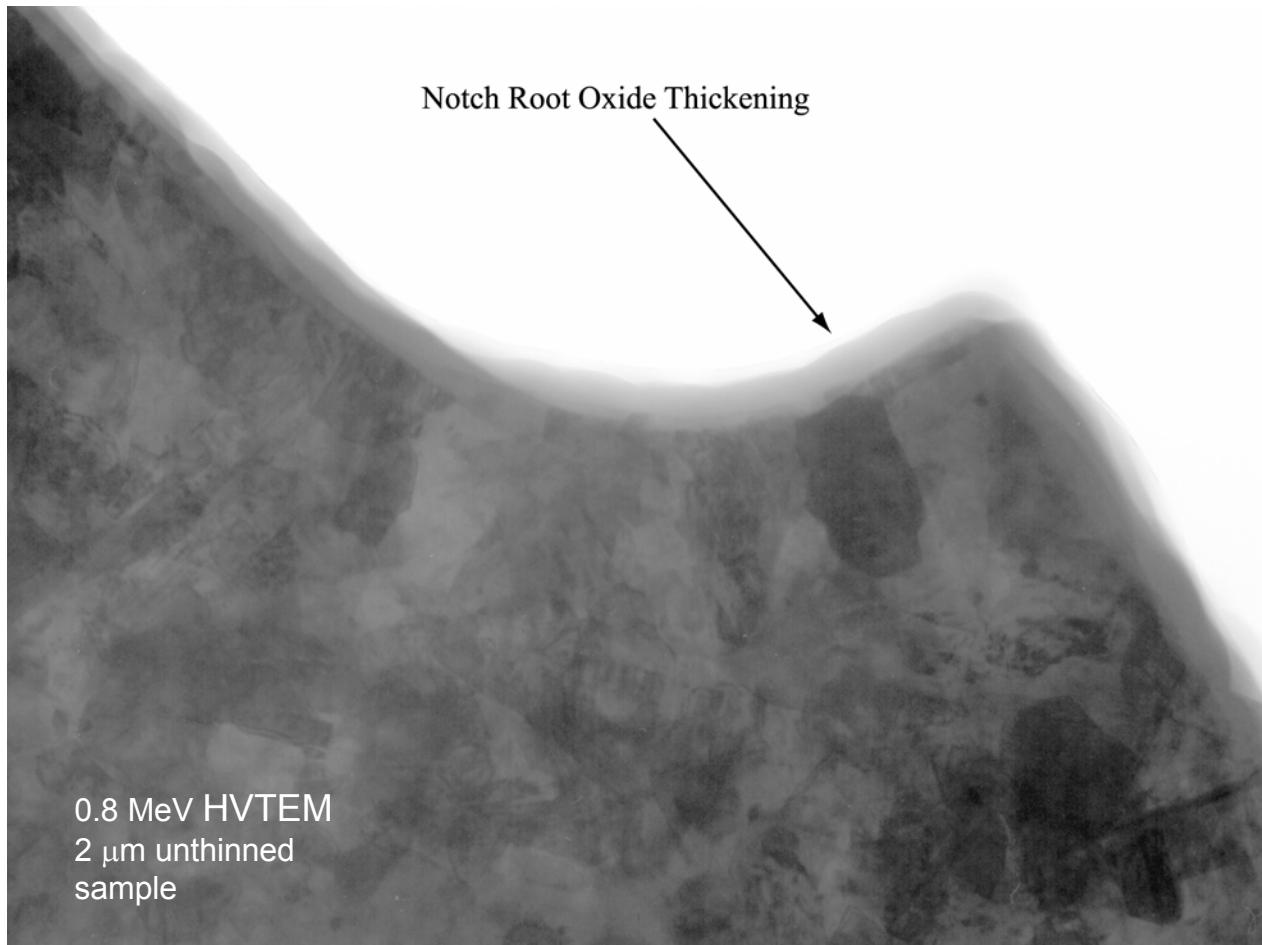
Ballarini *et al.*, ASTM STP 1413, 2001

Transgranular Cleavage Fracture

- transgranular cleavage cracking from notch through individual grains (crystals) showing the trajectory of the crack



Notch Root Oxide Thickening



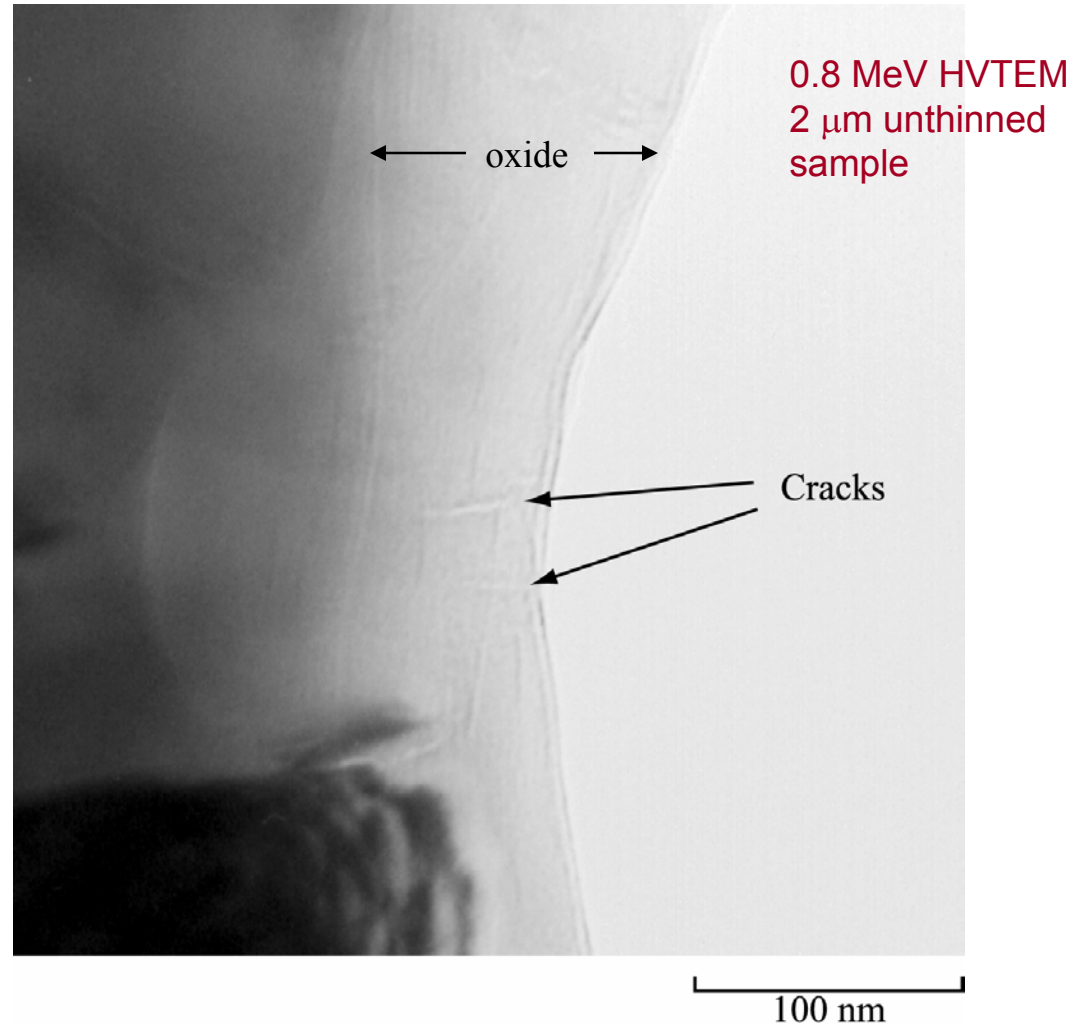
500 nm

- native oxide thickness ~ 30 nm
- *in cyclic fatigue*, oxide thickness at notch root seen to thicken three-fold to ~ 100 nm
- *in sustained loading*, no such thickening is seen

$$N_f = 3.56 \times 10^9 \text{ cycles}$$

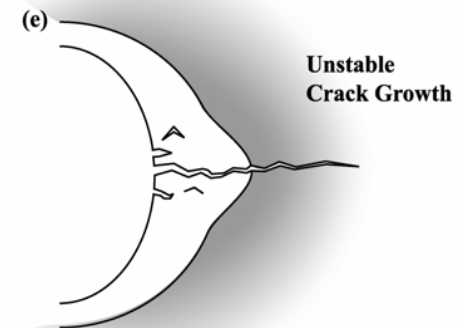
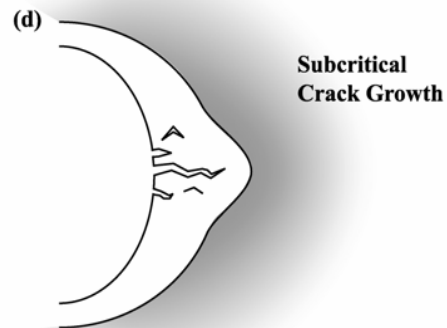
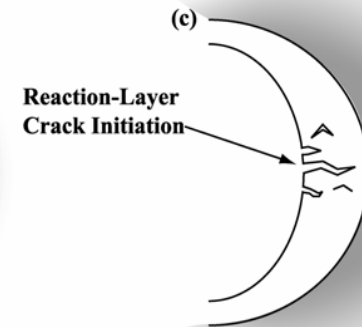
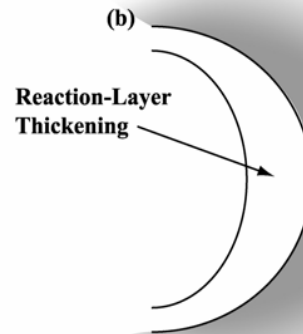
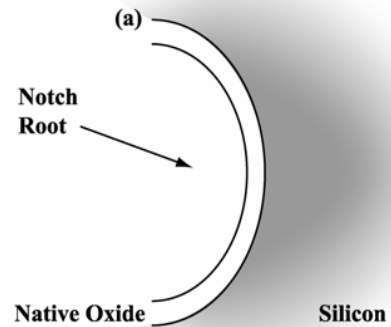
Cracking Occurs in Notch Root Oxide

- crack initiation in oxide scale during interrupted fatigue test
- evidence of several cracks ~40 – 50 nm in length
- the silicon oxide is a glass (amorphous) and is very sensitive to cracking induced by the presence of moisture (environmentally-assisted cracking)
- as the oxide layer is such a large fraction of the thin-film structure, a crack in this layer can cause failure of the whole device
- this does not occur in bulk Si



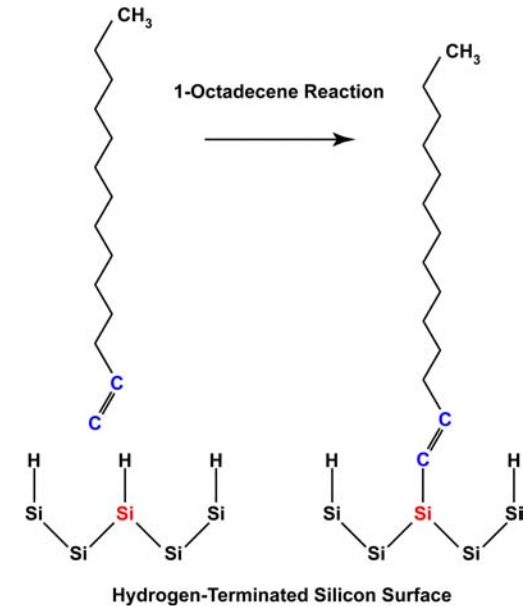
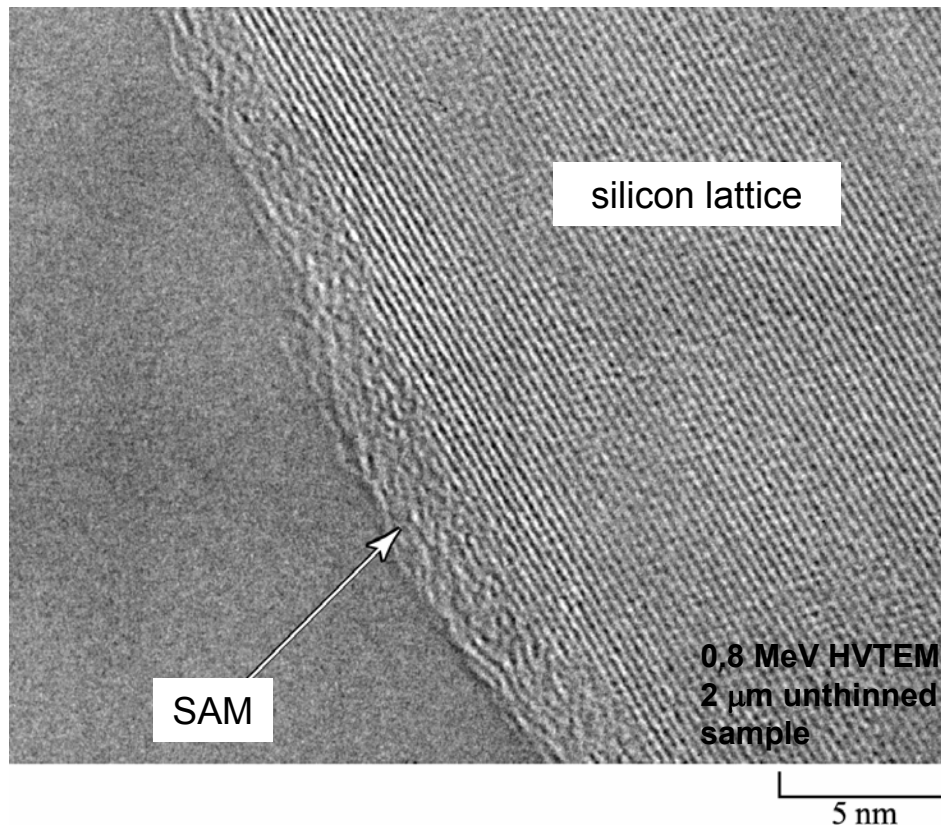
interrupted after 3.56×10^9 cycles

Fatigue Mechanism in Thin-Film Silicon



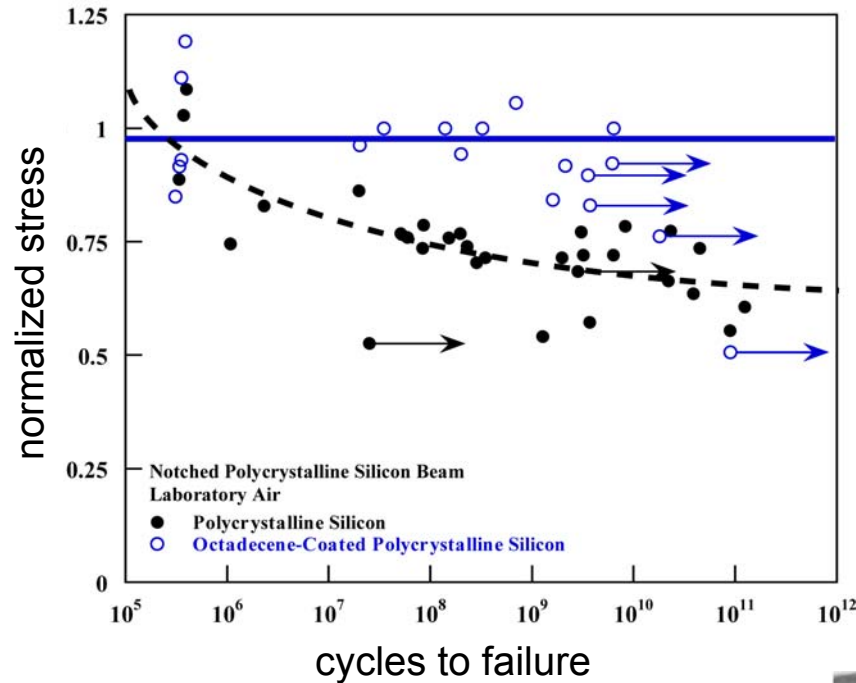
Self-Assembled Monolayer Coatings

- fatigue testing in the absence of oxide formation achieved through the application of alkene-based monolayer coatings



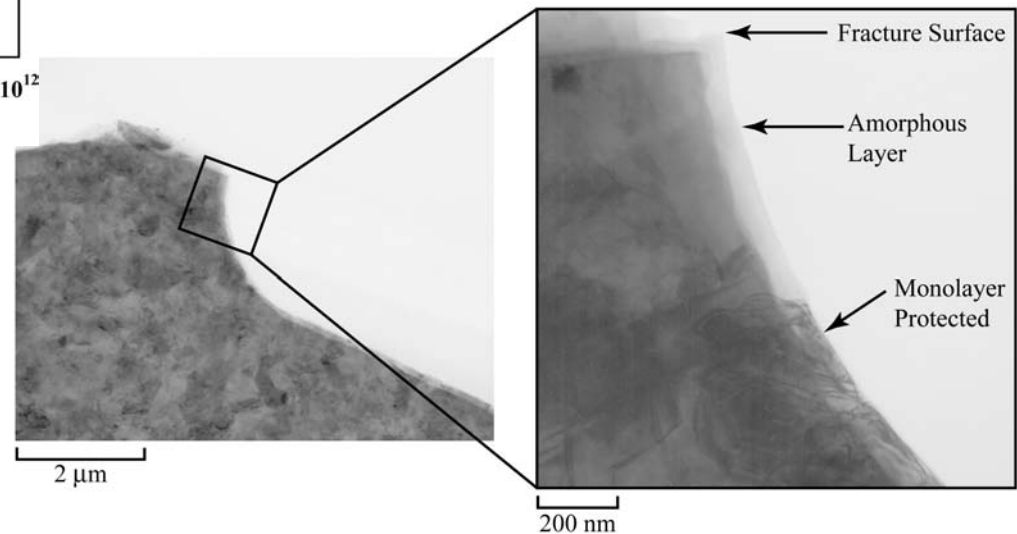
- Si chip is dipped in HF and then coated with alkene-based monolayer coating – *1-octadecene*
- alkene-based coating bonds directly to the H-terminated silicon surface
- coating is a few nm thick, hydrophobic, and stable up to 400°C; *providing a surface barrier to moisture and oxygen*

Coated Samples are less prone to Fatigue

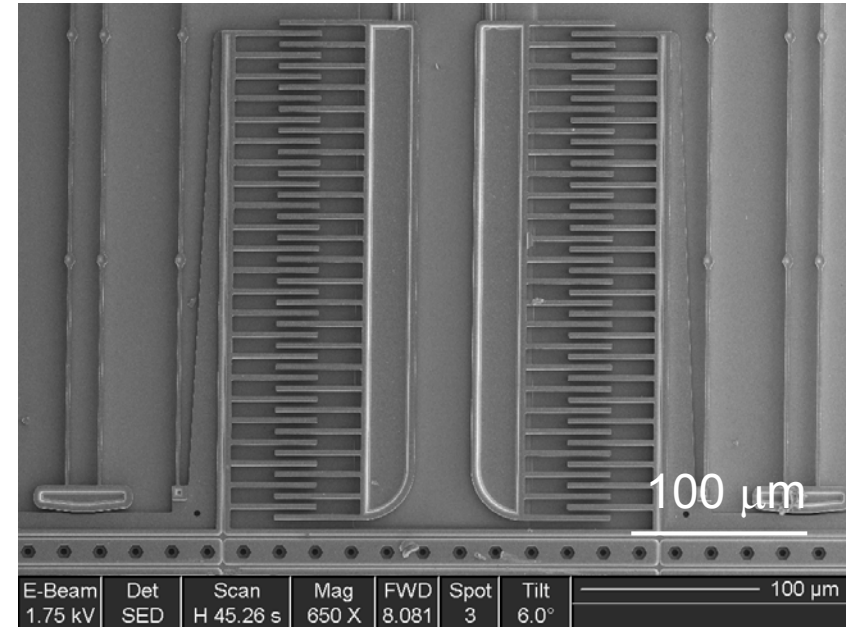
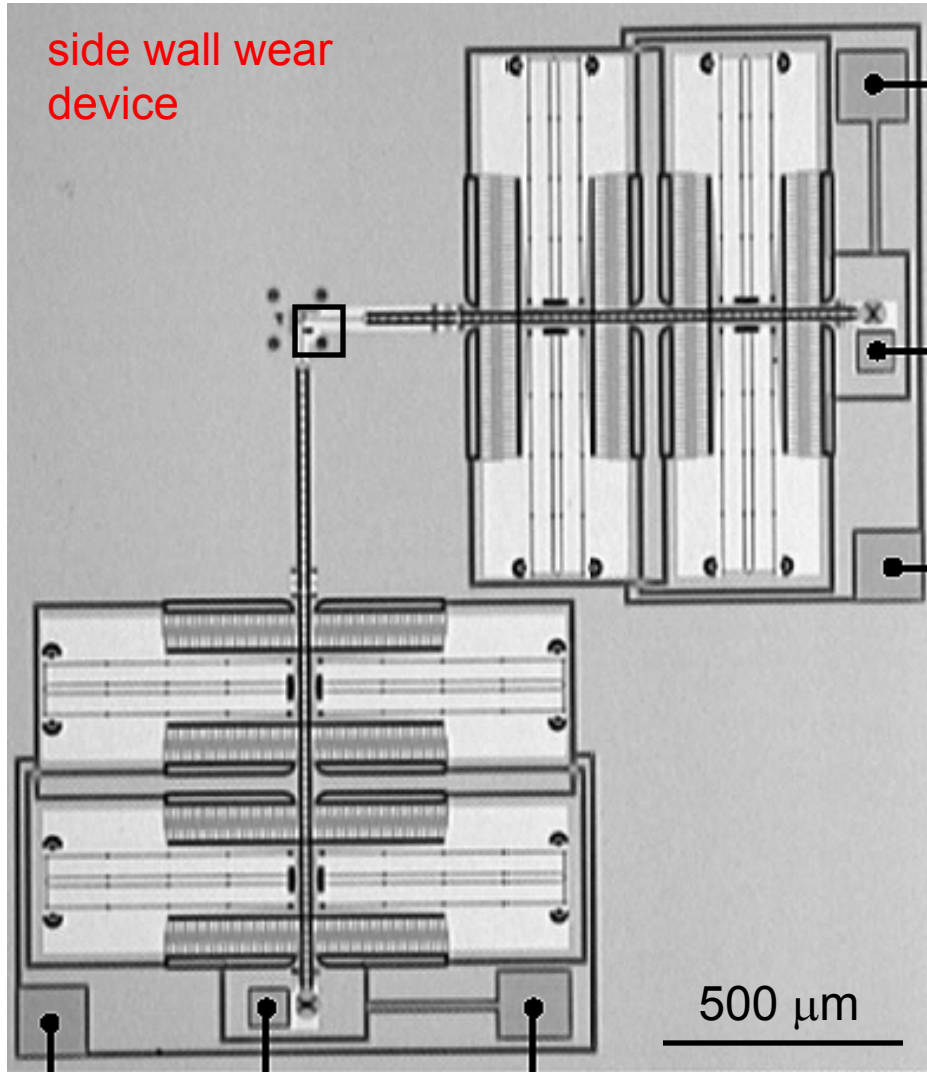


- SAM-coated Si samples display far reduced susceptibility to cyclic fatigue failure
- absence of oxide formation acts to prevent premature fatigue in Si-films

- alkene-based coatings, however, eventually wear out
- can also suppress such fatigue failure by operating your device in a vacuum

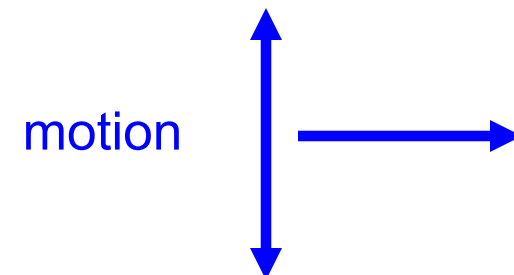
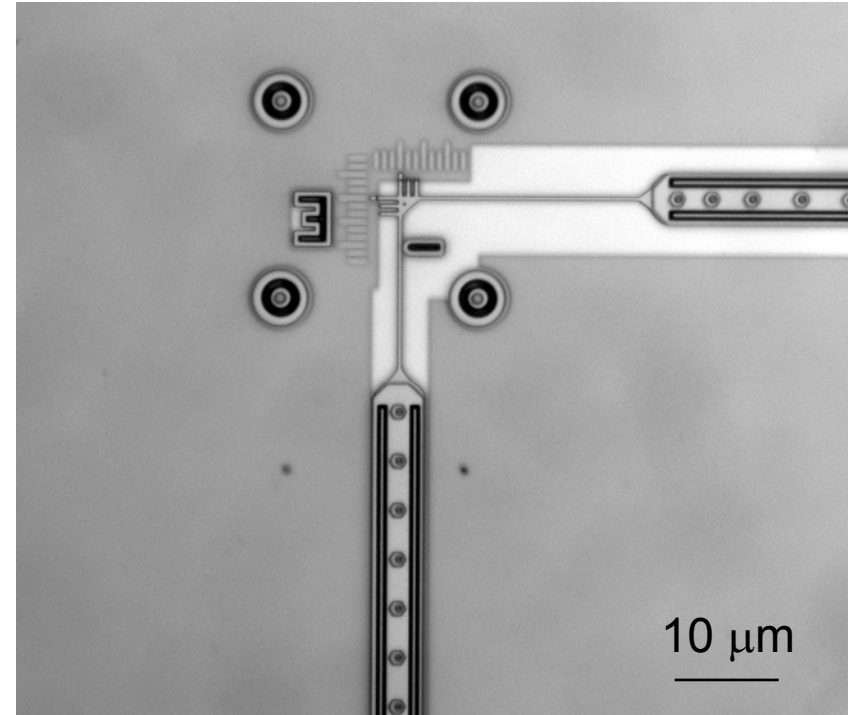
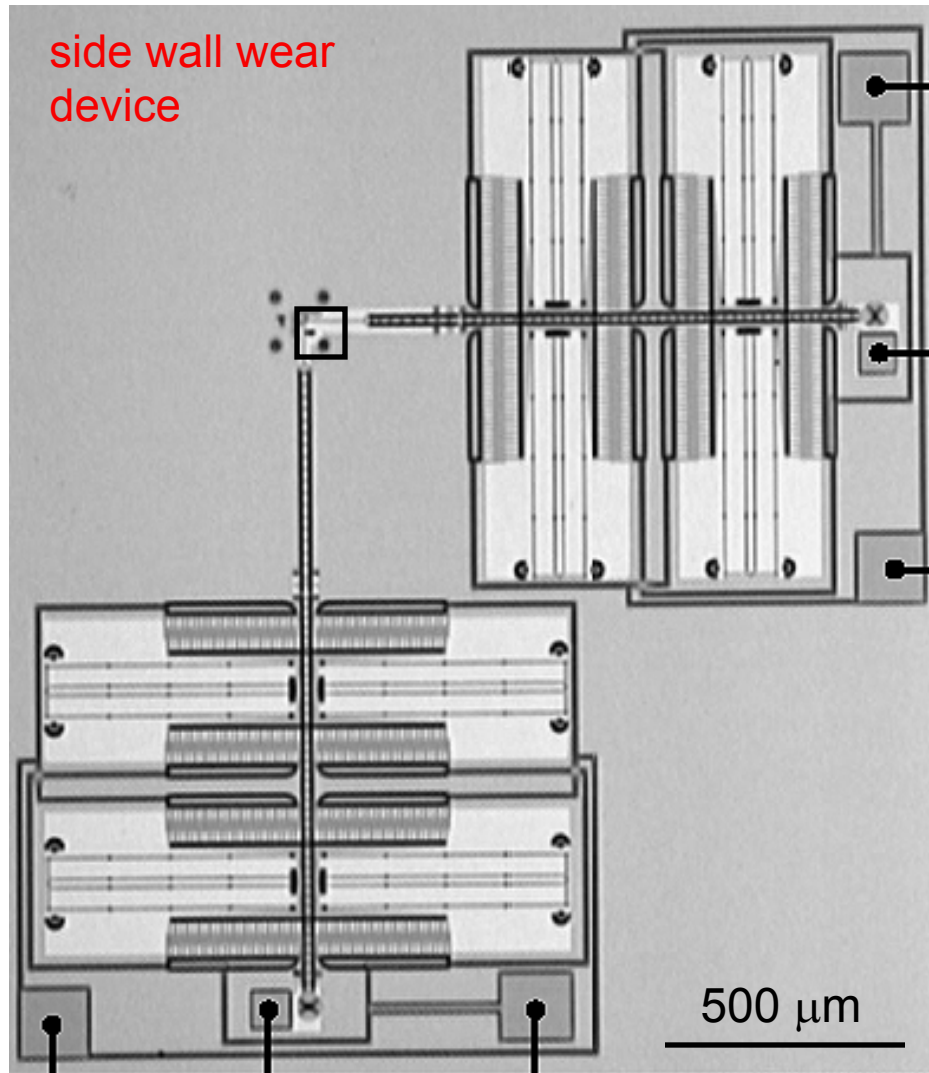


Micro Device to Assess Wear

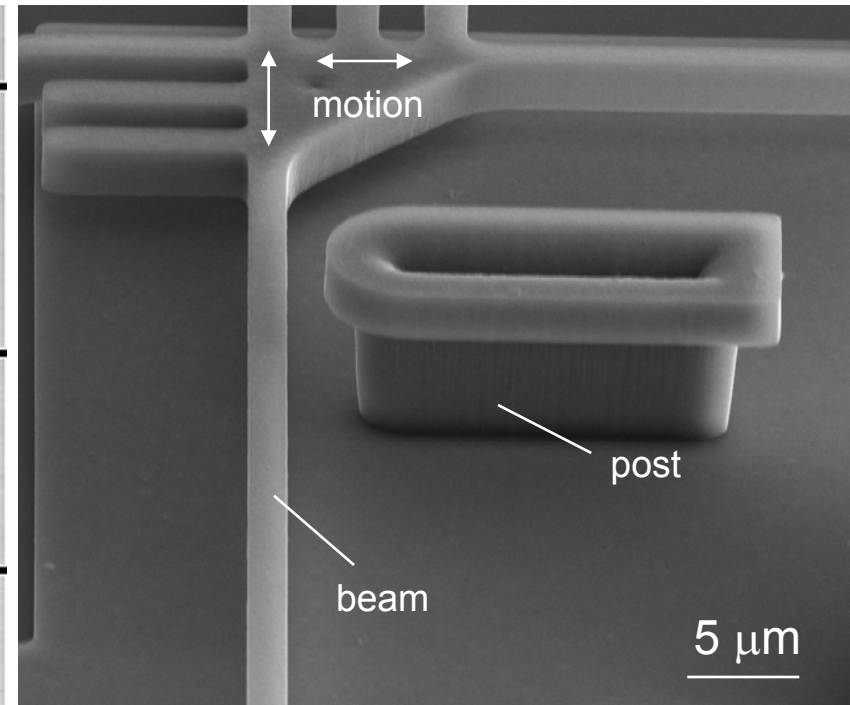
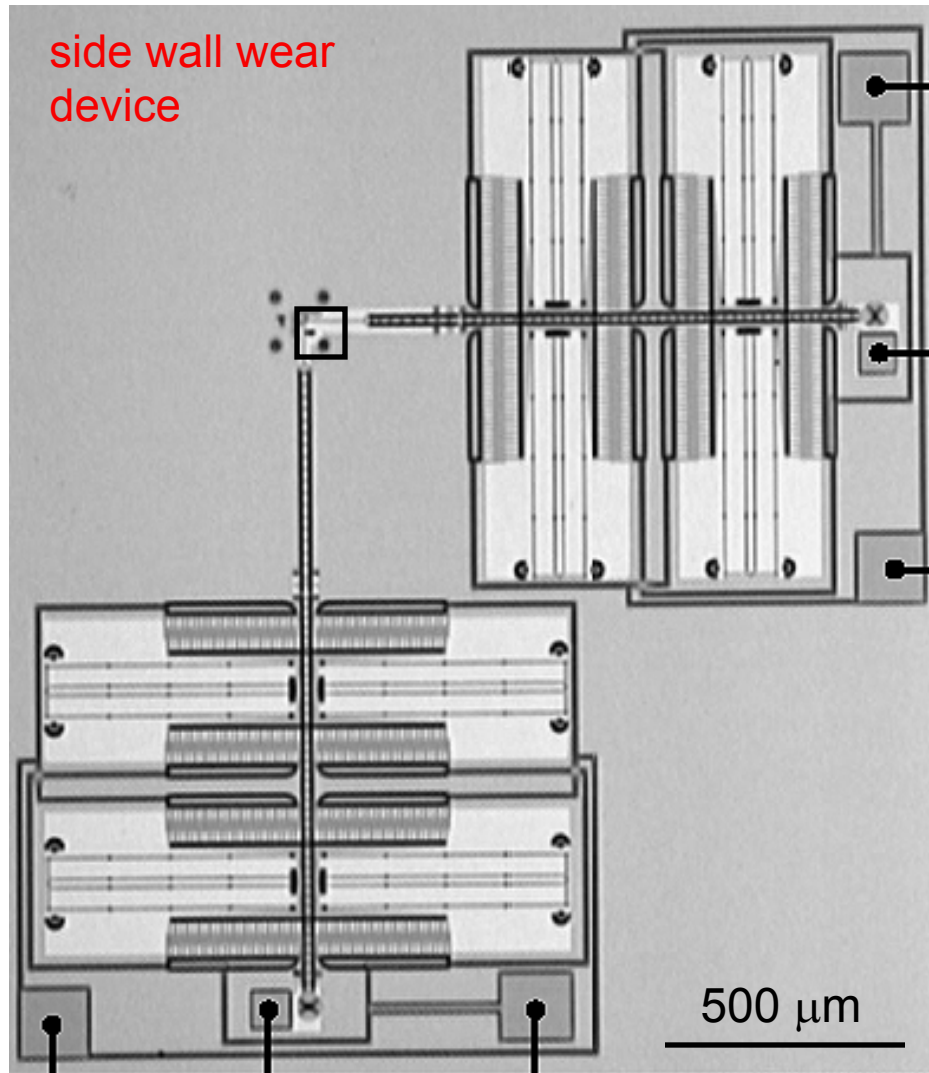


- electrostatically actuated using comb drives

Micro Device to Assess Wear



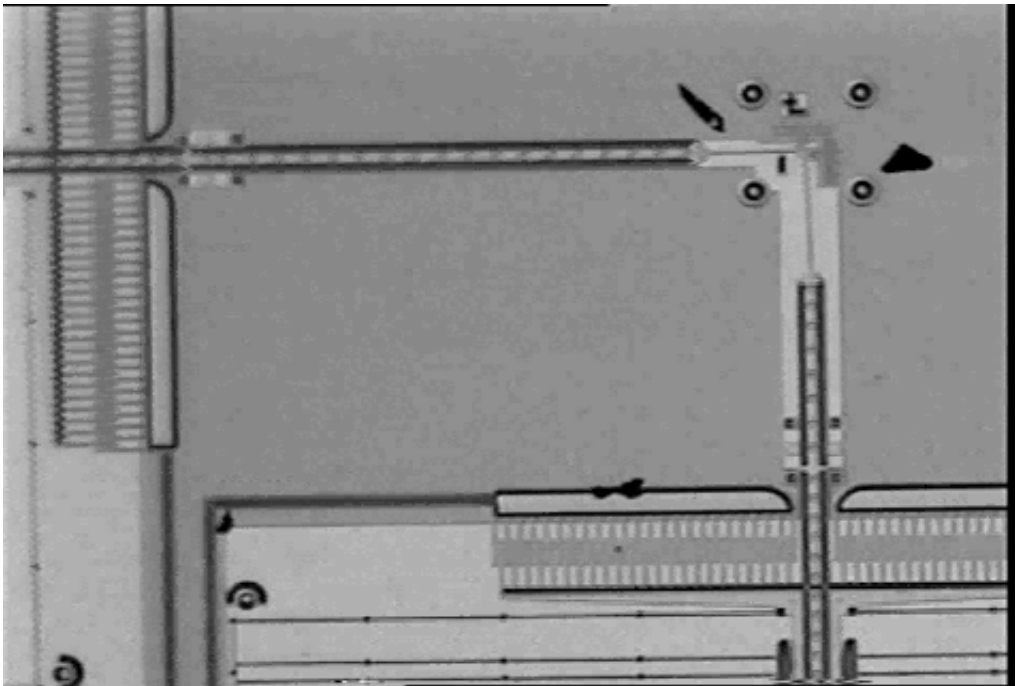
Micro Device to Assess Wear



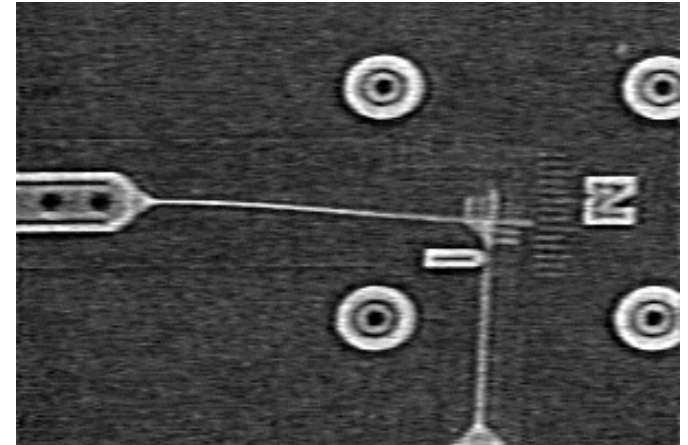
- sliding wear of beam on post

In Situ Measurement of Wear

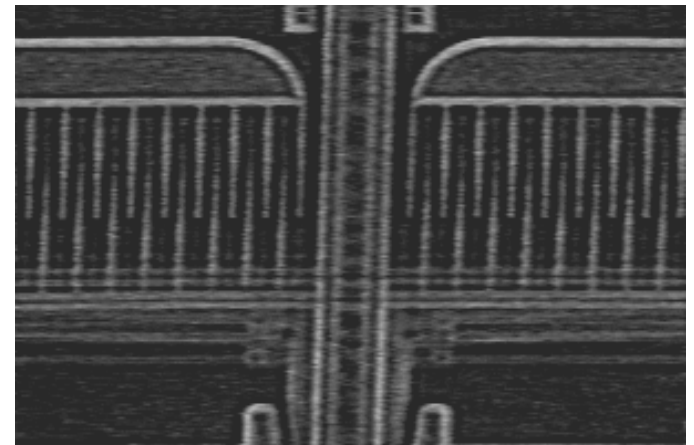
- Experimental set-up in motion to examine and measure the *in situ* wear properties inside the scanning electron microscope



500 μm

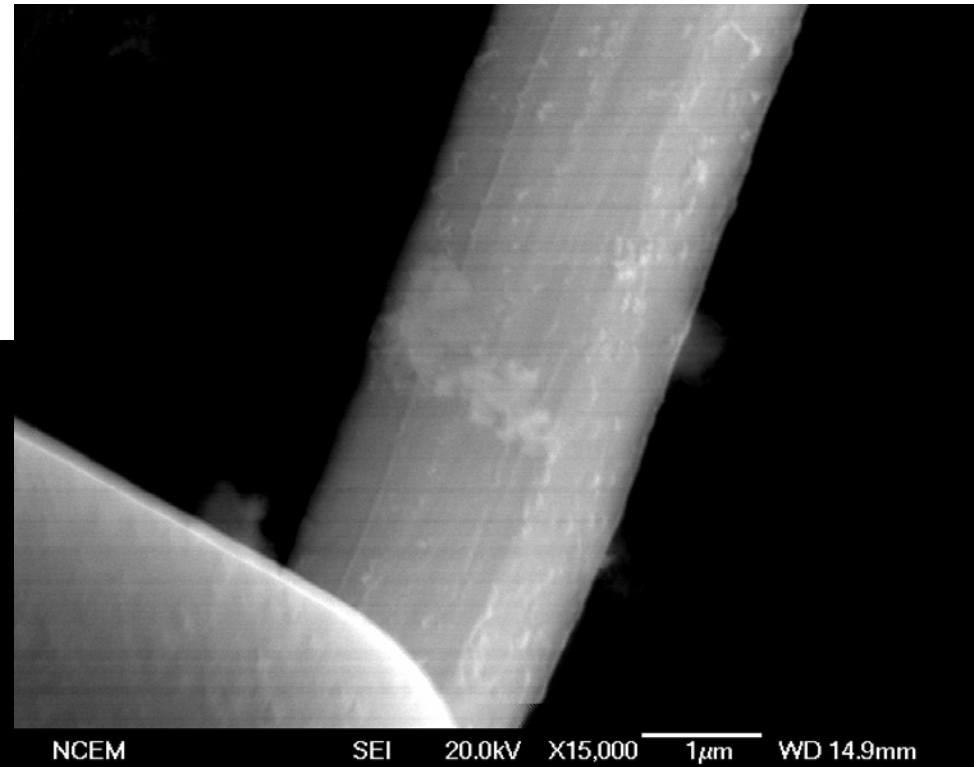
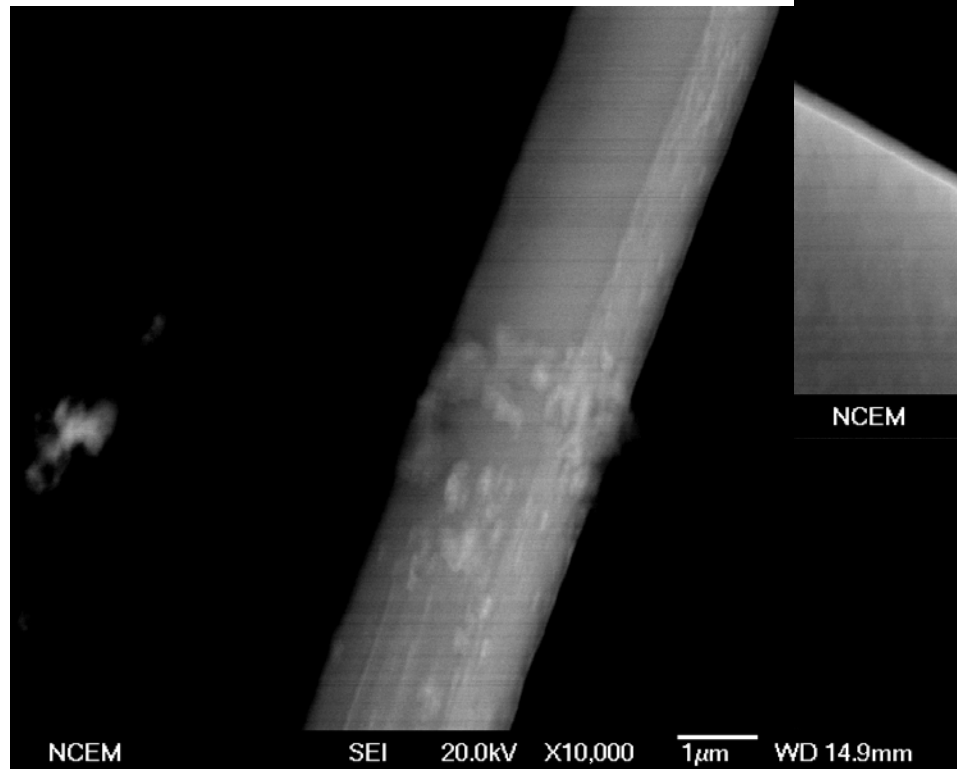


25 μm



Wear Debris

- wear debris is analyzed in the TEM for its morphology and composition analysis



- wear rate, K_w , is given by:

$$K_w = V_w / (P \cdot S)$$

where V_w is the volume of material removed over a distance S under a load P

NEMS Mechanical Testing Device

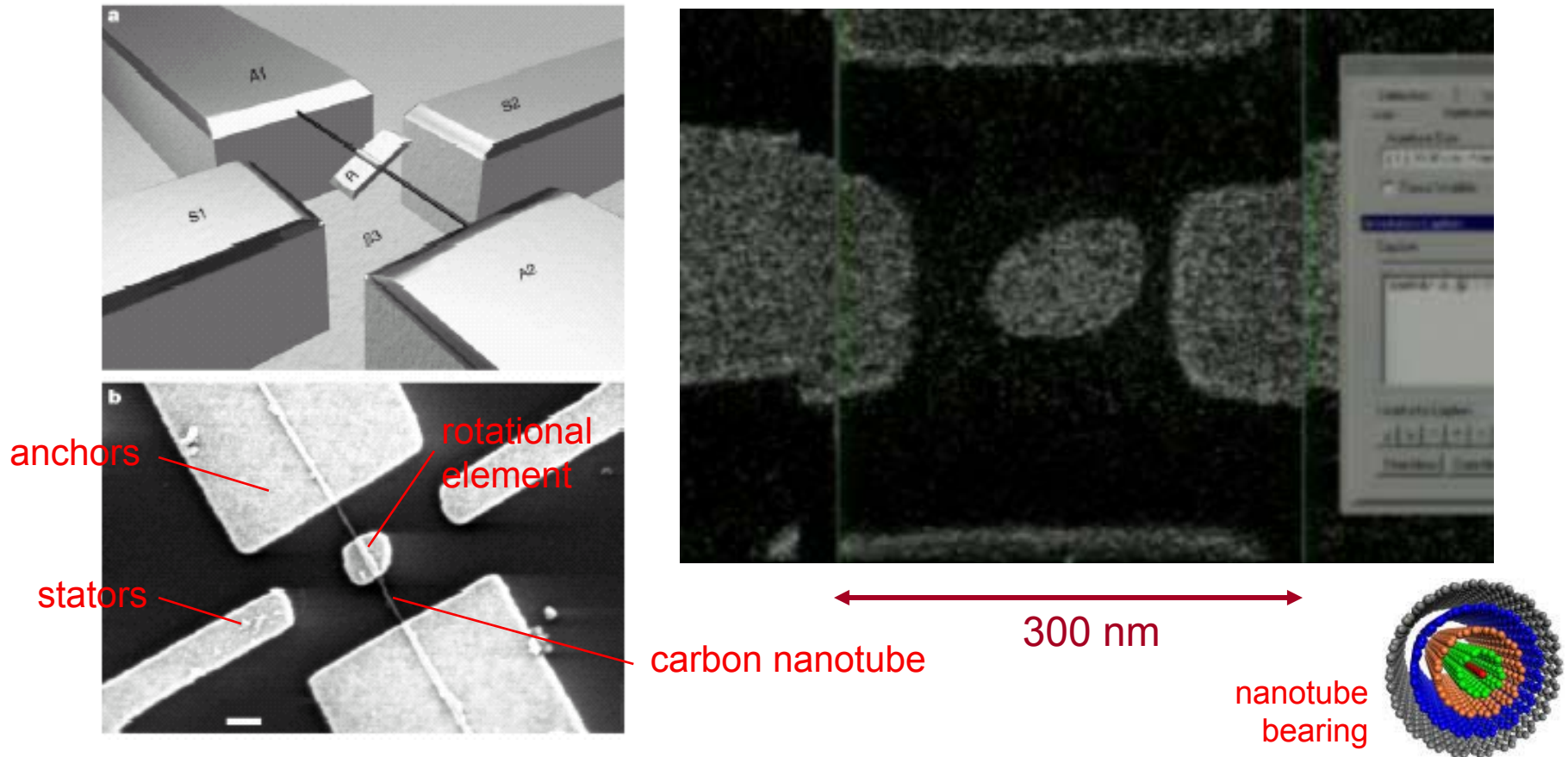
- Nano-cantilever: fracture and fatigue at the nano-scale



- smallest feature size ~20 nm; fabricated using a nanowriter from single crystal silicon

Electrostatic NEMS Nanomotor

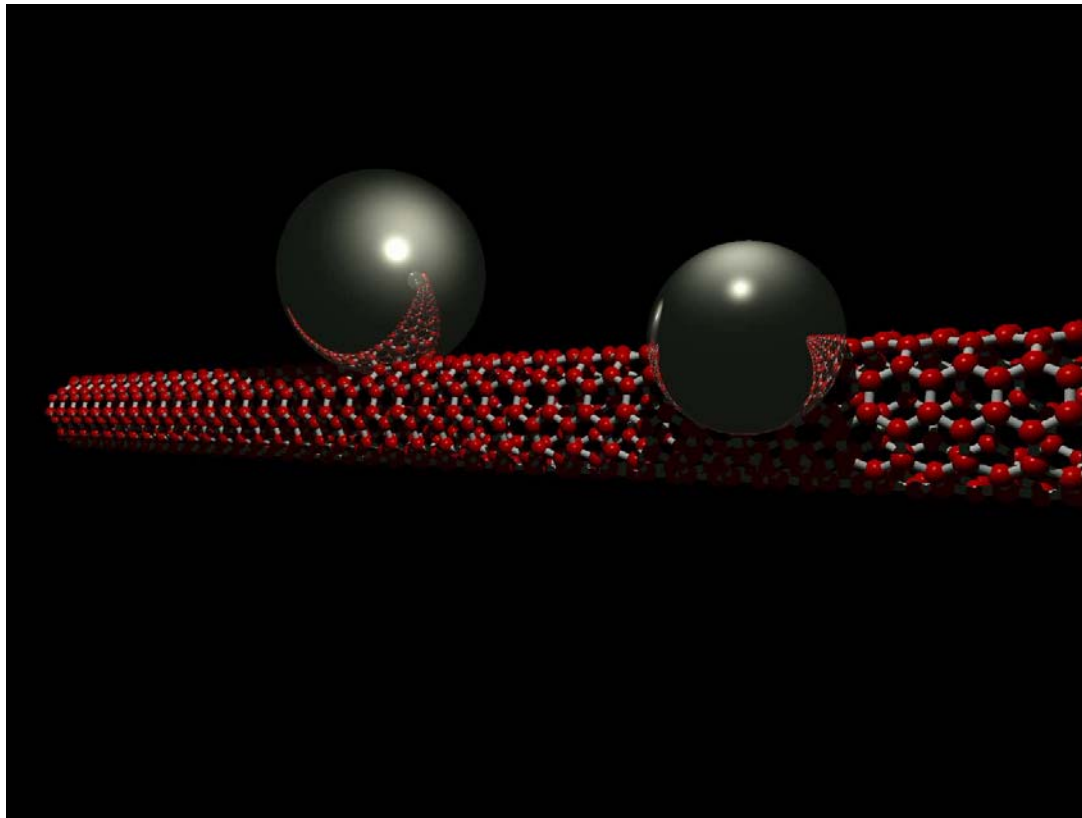
- Alex Zettl, UC Berkeley, Physics Dept., July 2003



- device is nano-fabricated on a silicon chip and utilizes the rotary sleeve bearing characteristics of multi-walled carbon nanotubes

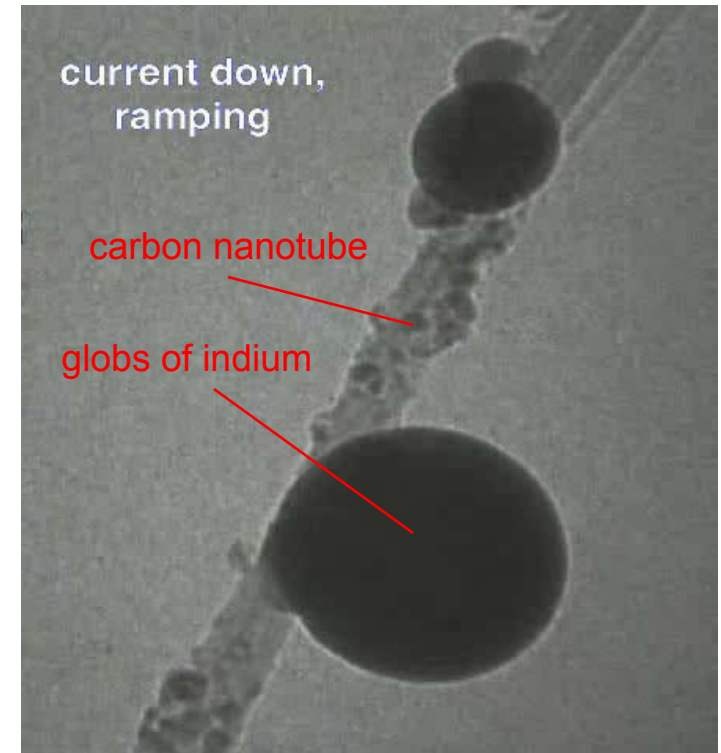
New Ideas for Nanomotors

- by reversing the electrical current along a carbon nanotube, we can move metal globs along the tube
- by putting the metal globs between two nanotubes, we can move them apart and do work



2 nm

animation



TEM image

5 nm

Be sure to see the next
Nano*High lecture by Prof. Alex
Zettl on such nano-machines!



Conclusions



- Micromachines or MEMS are playing an increasing role in our lives, whether as sensors for our automobiles, minute medical implant devices inside our bodies, or as weapons and tiny spies on the battlefield!
- The majority of MEMS are manufactured from silicon thin films using micro-fabrication techniques developed from integrated circuit IC technologies
- However, as silicon is such a brittle material, new micromachines will increasingly utilize other materials, including ceramics such as silicon carbide, metals such as nickel, and shape-memory materials such as Nitinol
- In research, these machines are critical for probing the properties of materials at increasingly smaller dimensions
- Current research and future developments will shrink these machines even further, i.e., to the nanoscale – NEMS – although the vast majority of such devices are still in the realm of scientific/engineering research.



Acknowledgements



Useful links and thanks due to:

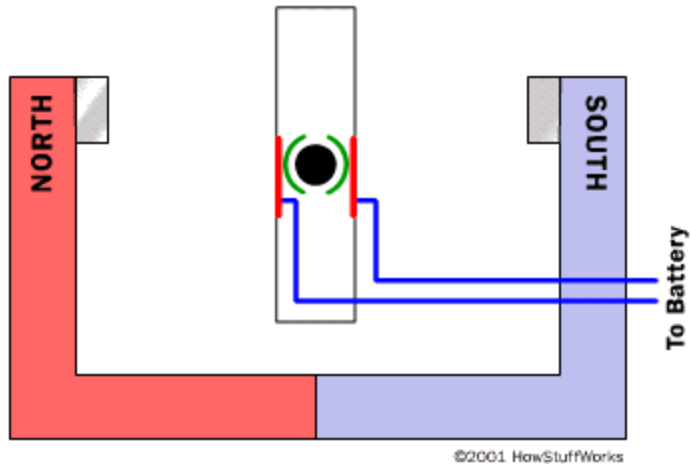
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- My colleagues & former students, especially Tony Tomsia, Eric Stach, Andy Minor (NCEM) (<http://ncem.lbl.gov/frames/center.htm>) & Chris Muhlstein (Penn State)
- UC Berkeley BSAC web page, especially Elliot Hui's "Overview of MEMS" (<http://w-bsac.eecs.berkeley.edu>)
- UC Berkeley EE245 lecture notes by Roger Howe & Thara Srinivasan (<http://www-bsac.eecs.berkeley.edu/projects/ee245/index.htm>)
- Sandia National Laboratory web page (<http://mems.sandia.gov/scripts/index.asp>)
- University of Colorado at Boulder "CU MEMS web", especially Adrian Michalick's "Introduction to MEMS" (<http://mems.colorado.edu/c1.gen.intro>)
- David Johnson & Leticia Menchaca of the TiAl Alloy Company (<http://www.tinialloy.com>)
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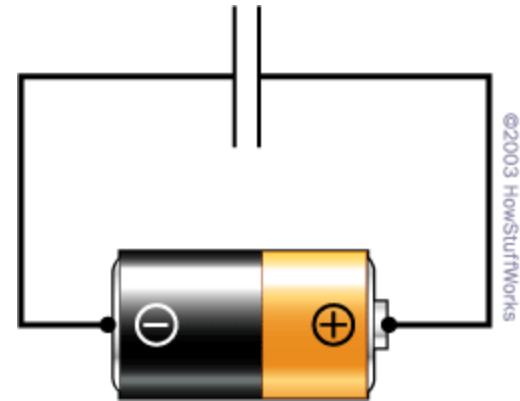


Electric motor

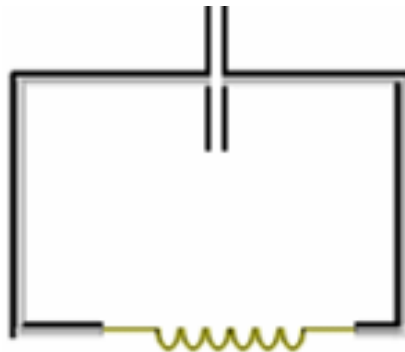


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Capacitor

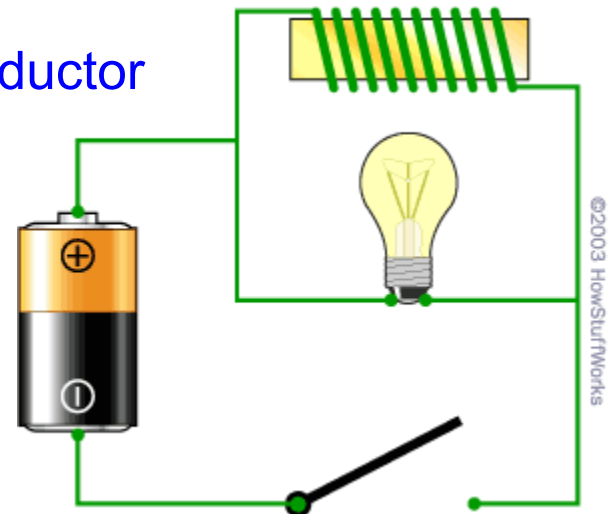


Oscillator



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Inductor



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